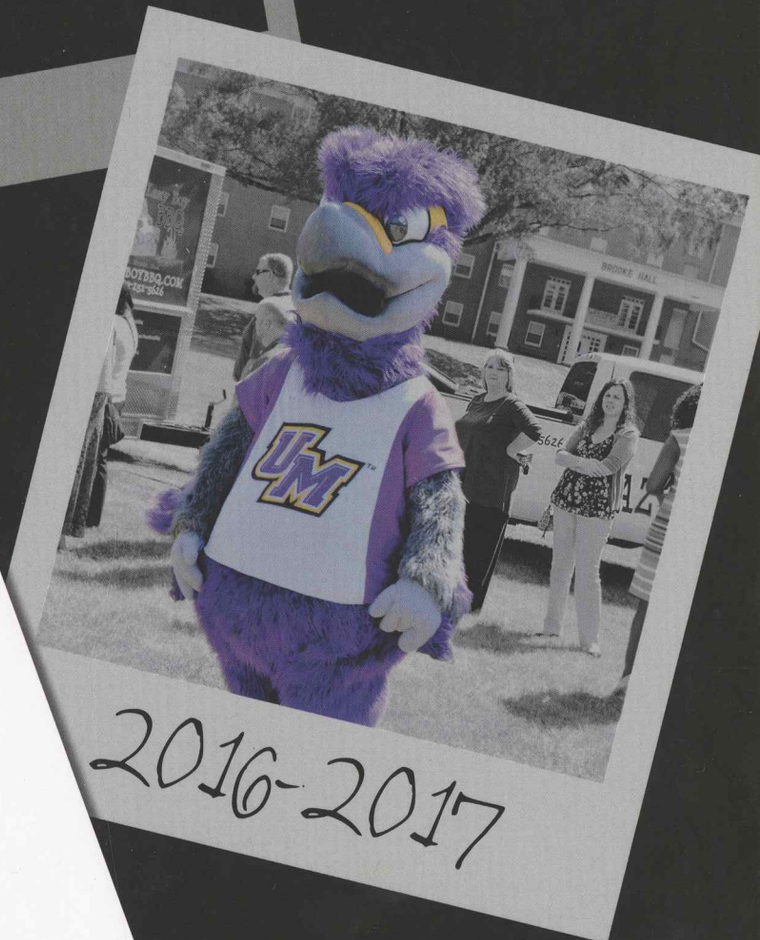
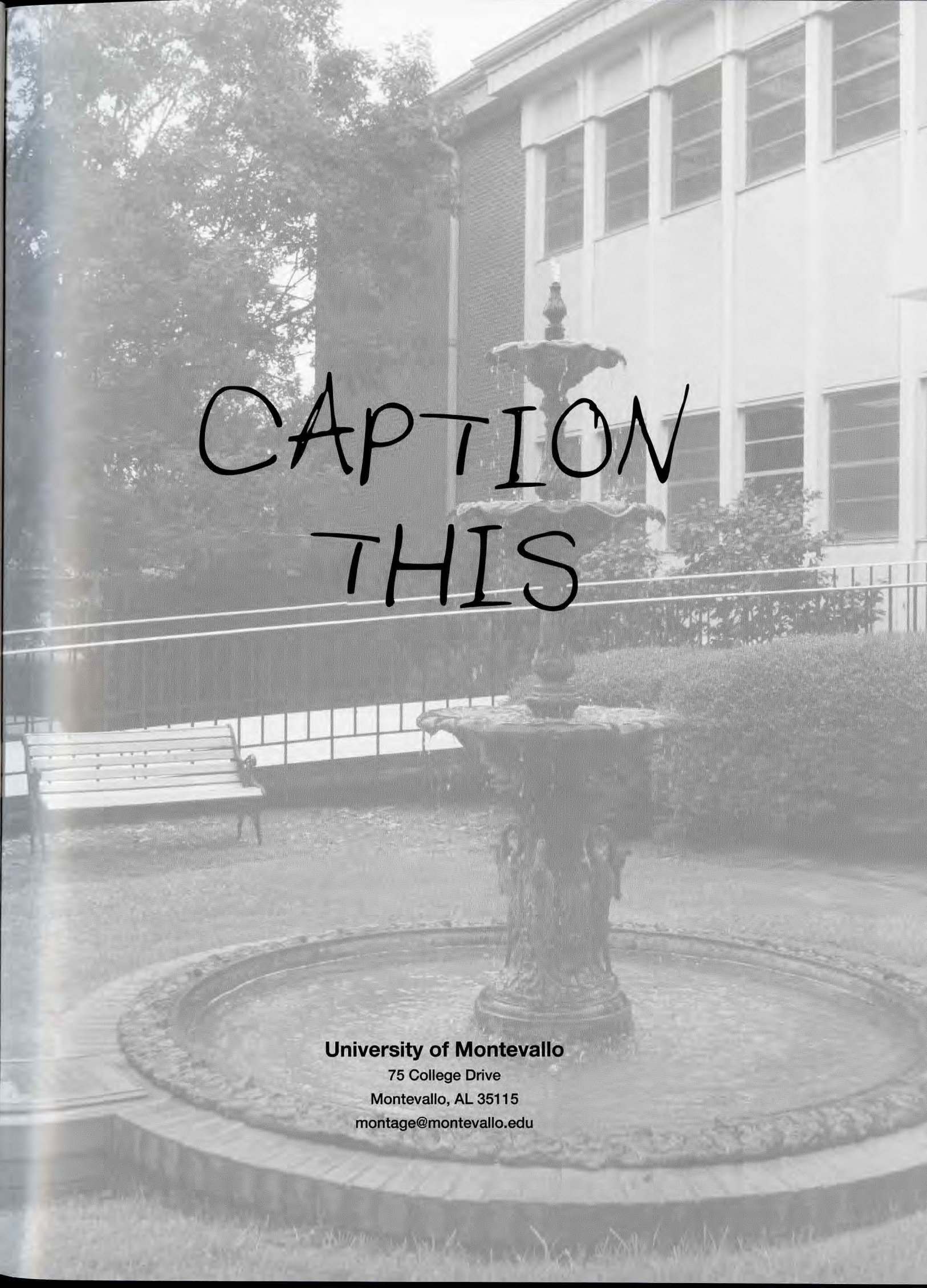


CAPTION THIS

MONTEVALLO
SHOW YOUR BLOOD IS ROYALTY
GOLD
VICTORY

Anna Irvin Dining Hall
1949



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Montevallo, AL 35115
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The University of Montevallo is a place that combines its rich history with a current freshness that is brought in by waves of modern students. Each year, each decade, each century is different from the one before, and even with all this change, there are some things that remain constant. One of the things I wanted to do with this book was highlight the past and the present of the university and the ways we are similar and different.

The Polaroid theme is juxtaposed with font and layout influences from social media such as Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and Pinterest. These digital apps and websites already reference their past counterparts, so putting them together on a page showcases their functional similarities and technological differences. We can use this as an analogy for the way our society is built on and improved from that of the generations before us.

Captions are the text that accompany a photo; they describe the action and are an essential part of any yearbook. "Caption this" is a phrase commonly seen on social media accompanying a funny or bizarre picture. It is an invitation for the viewer to caption the image with their interpretation of it. While it is our job as the university's yearbook staff to compile photos and accompanying captions, I wanted there to be a way to incorporate the perspectives of some other members of the Montevallo community. We hosted our weekly Caption Contest through our Instagram page using photos from various events on campus as a way for people to get involved.

I would like to thank my hardworking staff for putting up with me. I was very ambitious with the design of this book and there were so many things I wanted to incorporate. I was not sure how it would all come together, but they were right there with me going above and beyond to make my elaborate vision a reality. I would also like to extend my appreciation to our advisor, Amanda, for listening to our frustrations and for being a calming presence when we needed one. Wendy, Erica, Makayla, not only did we make a yearbook, we made history.

Yes, the here and now is always changing, but we are the ones shaping it. My fellow millennials, laugh at funny pictures on the internet, but also share videos and articles about things that are important to you. Revel in the present, appreciate the past, and welcome the future. Your words are powerful and your voice is louder than ever. Put your unique twist on life: Caption This.

Megan Liveoak

Megan Liveoak
Montage Editor-in-Chief
2016-2017

#TheMelch
Amanda Melcher
The Best Advisor Ever!
Xan Shivers
Staff Photographer
Megan Liveoak
Editor-in-Chief
IT'S FASHION BECKY!
Wendy Johnson
Lead Photographer & Photo Editor
Erica Lewis
Lead Writer & Copy Editor
Makayla Wright
Lead Graphic Designer & Layout Editor

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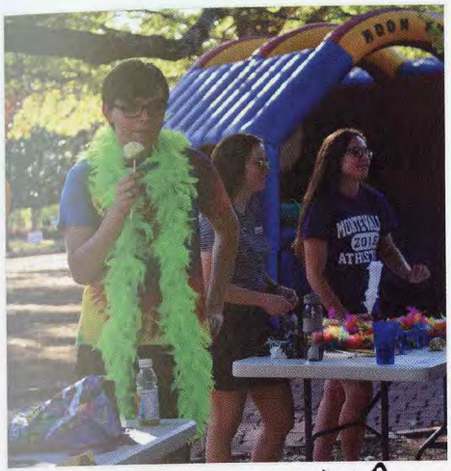

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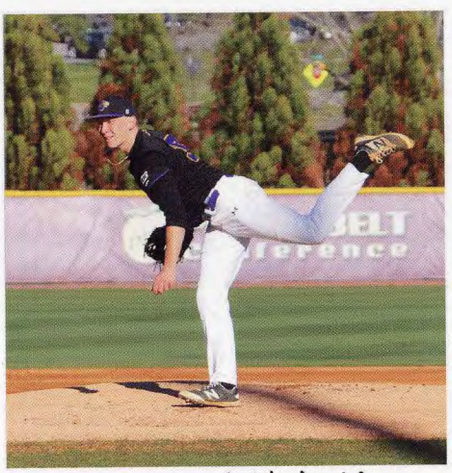

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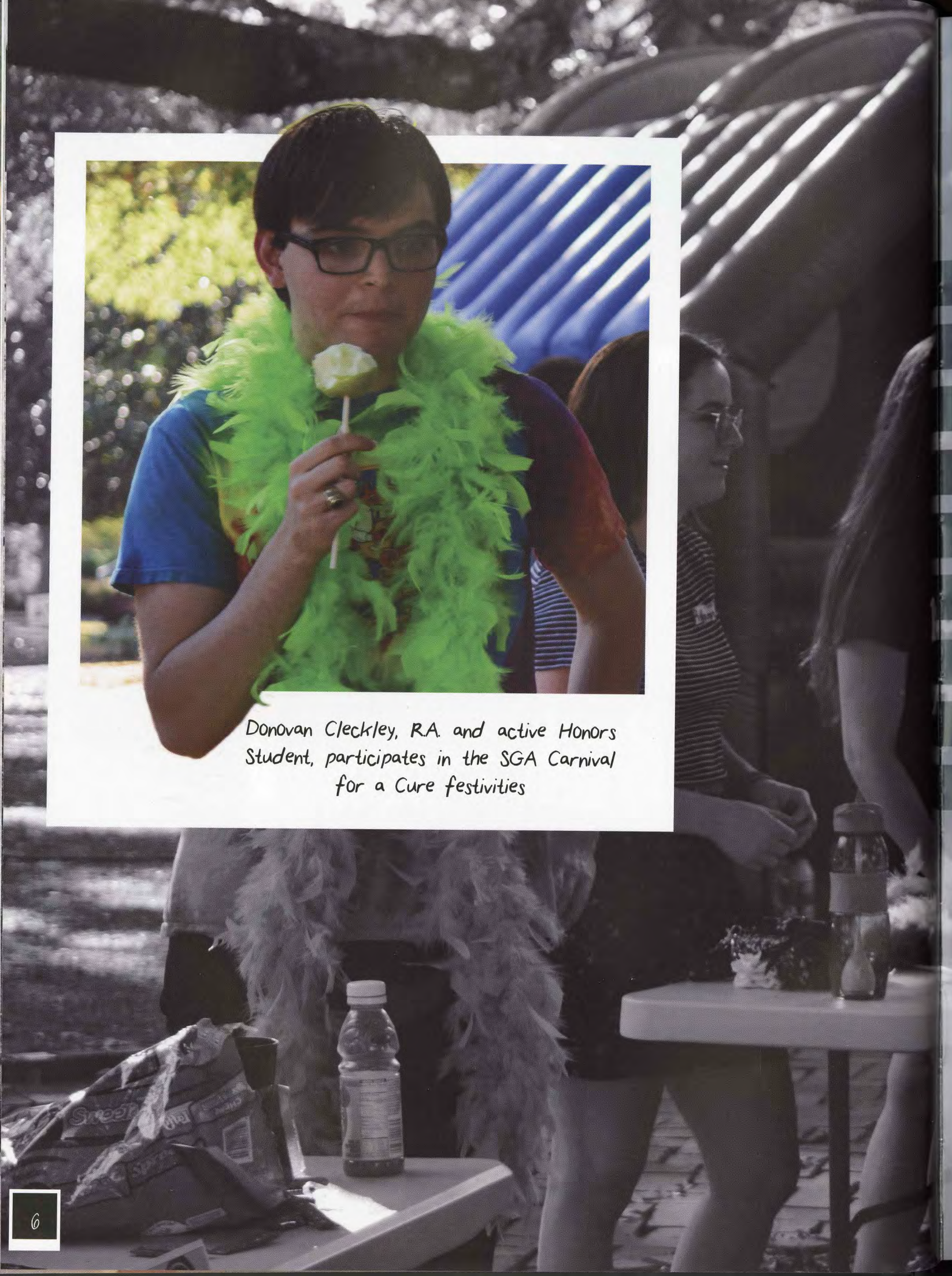


Donovan Cleckley, R.A. and active Honors Student, participates in the SGA Carnival for a Cure festivities

CAMPUS LIFE

8-9	Welcome Weekend & Back to School Bash
10-11	UPC Events
12-13	SGA Events
14-15	Food Truck Thursdays & Chef Jet
16-17	Jeter Hall
18-19	Founders' Day & Life Raft Debate
20-21	Comics Exibit
22-23	Fall Graduation
24-25	Spring Graduation

WELCOME WEEKEND

During Welcome Weekend, incoming students are divided into groups. The groups follow their Orientation Leaders through various activities that both introduce them to the campus and their new peers. Freshman Kendall Rae Criswell says, "Welcome Weekend was pretty overwhelming— I met so many different people and was so intimidated by everyone that was introducing me to the campus. It was strange, but after a while, I felt at home and lucky that I had chosen Montevallo as my home away from home." Criswell adds the impact that SGA president Hunter Huie made on her during Welcome Weekend. "He made me excited to apply for SGA Freshman Forum, and he was such a warm and helpful person that I met during Welcome Weekend."

Jonathan Mendoza, one of the Orientation Leaders, decided to become an Orientation Leader because he had such a positive experience during Welcome Weekend as a freshman. As an upperclassman who now leads the groups, Mendoza recalls, "The highlight of Welcome Weekend for me was watching the new students open up throughout the course of the weekend. At the start of the weekend they look nervous and sit quietly, but by the end of the weekend they are talking away and have found some of the people that will eventually become their closest friends... Helping out with Welcome Weekend is such an amazing experience. I have so much love for this university, so helping these new students transition to the next chapter of their life is a rewarding experience. I love getting to show these students what this campus has to offer."

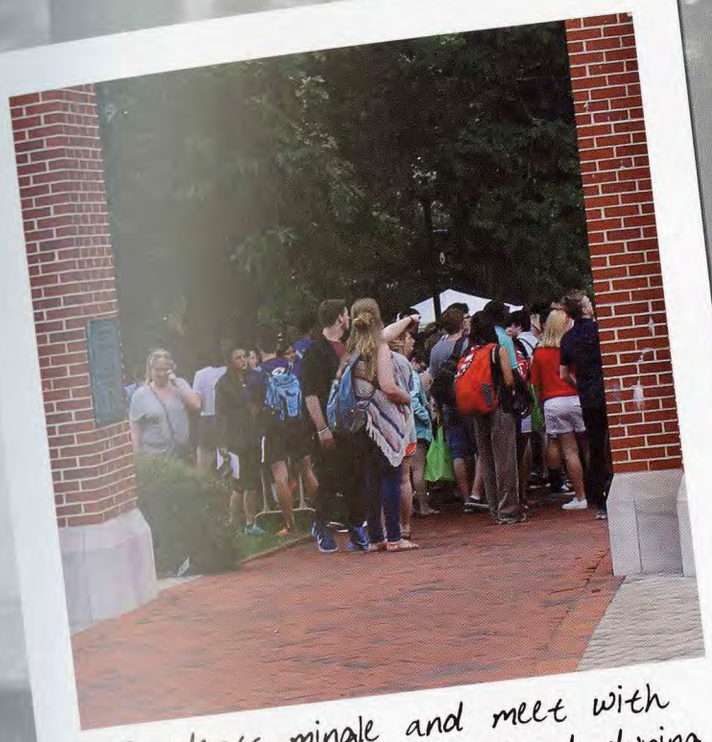
2016 Orientation Leaders

"On my way to pick up your girl (to bring her to Welcome Weekend)" -Jonathan Mendoza
Photo Credits: Russell Alicea

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Following Welcome Weekend, the Back to School Bash, hosted by the University Program Council, is a celebration of both new and returning students, welcoming them to campus and exciting them for the new year. For incoming students, this event functions as a means of introduction to the multitude of organizations on campus. The event is also a chance for students to meet and mingle with fellow new students and current upperclassmen, as it is a welcome to these returning students as well. In doing so, the incoming students are able to participate in a form of recruitment for the various groups on campus, such as Purple and Gold Side, Greek life, and clubs. Cashmere Clinton sees this opportunity for involvement as a major plus for new students and remembers, "Being a part of the clubs on campus has gotten me through my college experience to this day, and I really do not know how different it would be if I had not chosen to get involved."

Clinton represented her sorority at a booth during the Back to School Bash "in order to meet new young ladies who were interested in formal recruitment... One of my favorite parts [of the bash] would have to be the fact that I had the opportunity to speak to the new students." Also involved at a sorority table, Elizabeth Ann Moore believes "the highlight of the Back to School Bash is getting to see the excitement of new students learning about organizations and ways to be an active student. Seeing their excitement helps me remember why I love Montevallo and being involved myself!"

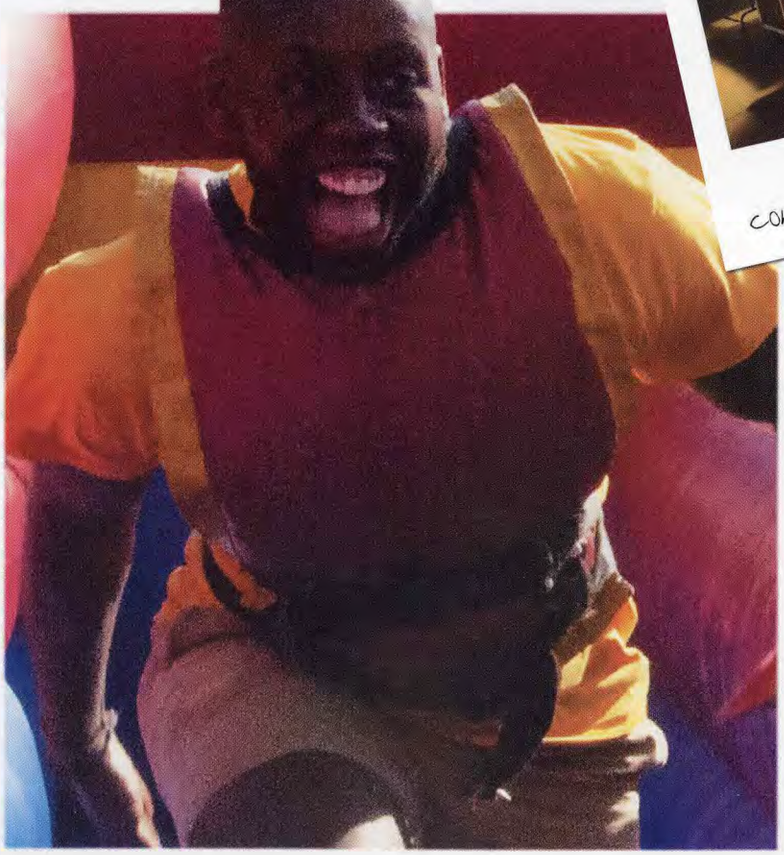


Students mingle and meet with organizations on Main Quad during the Back to School Bash

Hunter Huie and Claire Quirk recruit members for SGA at the Back to School Bash

Comedian Jonathan Burns dons a white trash bag to protect his clothing from whipped cream shenanigans

UPC members serve free concessions at the drive in movie



UPC Coordinator Donnie Bennett races Jonathon Mendoza on the Moon-Walker inflatable

UPC Events

The University Program Council, commonly referred to as UPC, puts on two to three events every month of the academic year and even more during the first two months of each semester. Bailey Judd, the Coordinator of Student Life, oversees all of the UPC's events, supervising the UPC Coordinator and volunteers. Judd says, "One of the events I hear the students mention a lot is Stuff-A-Friend" and the "new event we tried this year, Tie Dye Day!" Some of the other events that the UPC has executed include Film in Farmer, Trivia Night, Relaxation Station, Movie-on-Main, Water Fest, Cokes and Strokes, Flexible Comedy, Fright Night, Pumpkin Painting, Amphitheater Movie, Paint Party Palooza, Spring Fest (which included a rock wall and water slides), Casino Night, Magician/Comedian, 90's Roller Rink and Arcade (which included skating, ping pong, mini-golf, shuffleboard, cornhole, darts, Pac-man) Throwback Time Machine Dance Party, Vegas-in-Vallo, musical performances from bands like Kazual and the Underground Social Club, Drive-In Movies, Knockerball, haunted attractions, and Midnight Breakfast.

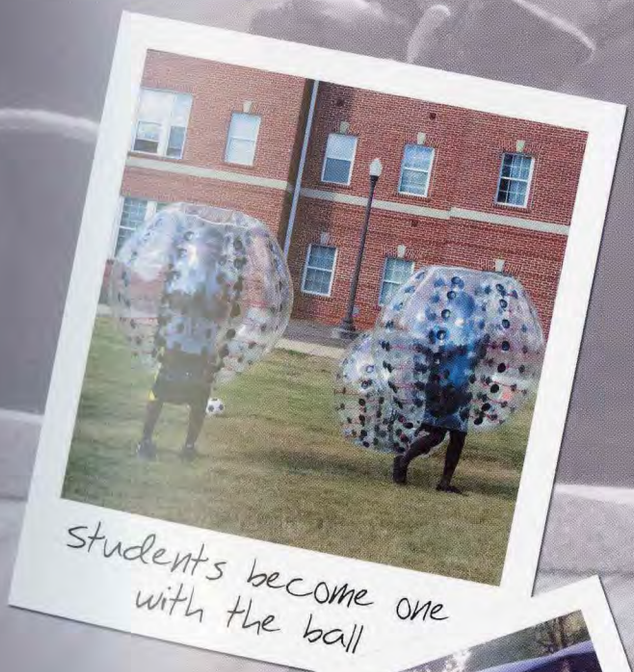
Knockerball is a chance for students to be the ball and experience the combined worlds of soccer and bumper-cars. Navigating a small field on the Brooke quad, the players try to kick a soccer ball into the goals on either side of the set up, while strapped into plastic, air-filled bubbles. The participants are secured into large, clear balls with shoulder straps and can grab the handles inside for stability. The air cushion allows for safe fun that is a "new take on an old sport" according to Honors sophomore Gordon "Geordie" Kennedy, who himself participated in this "fun" and "creative" event.

While the focus of the game is to score and win, it also is quite "disorienting, because of the depth perception changes" inside of the sphere, according to Kennedy. It is a whole new challenge presented with new abilities, too. Players can flip, roll, and bounce while staying completely safe within the air cushions. The combined challenges and abilities make for a very exciting time. Students gather around to watch and laugh with their friends as they undertake the game and get free snow cones from Kona Ice.

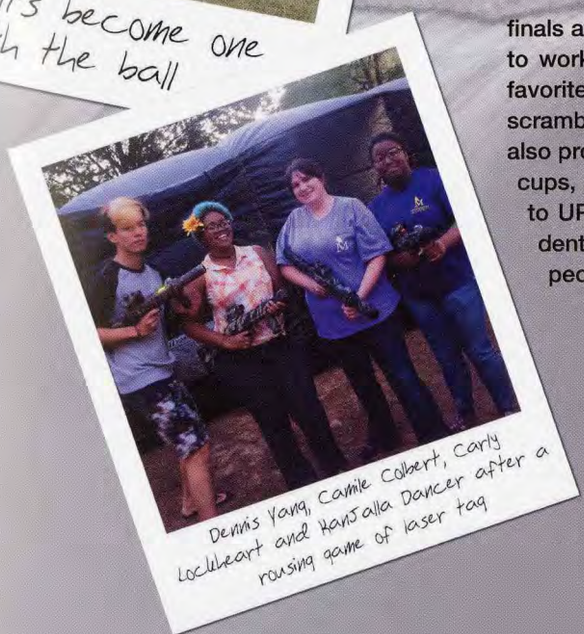
Students set up blankets and towels to sit on, nestled on the grass between the SAC projector and the parking lot behind them, which is lined with those of their peers who opt for the more traditional drive-in experience. The UPC provides free popcorn and snowcones along with their screenings, which include movies like "Finding Dory" and "Concussion."

UPC constructs a haunted maze every year during the Halloween season. Students are split into groups and enter in waves. UPC member Ivy Jo Davis recalls, "The highlight for me was definitely seeing everyone's faces when they walked out. It's always fun to see how people react to horror exhibits like this one."

Many students enjoy the break from studying from their finals at the Midnight Breakfast. Teachers and students volunteer to work this event in Anna Irvin, serving some of the students' favorite breakfast items, such as pancakes, french toast, muffins, scrambled eggs, and sausage, the night before finals begin. UPC also provides free novelties for students including monogrammed cups, purple and gold cardholders, and drink coozies. According to UPC member Jonathan Mendoza, "The part that many students look forward to is the dancing that occurs typically once people are done eating."



Students become one with the ball



Dennis Yang, Camile Colbert, Carly Lockheart and Kansalla Dancer after a rousing game of laser tag

SGA Events

The Student Government Association hosts events in order to fill the needs of the student body whether that be their health, safety, entertainment, or knowledge. These events are: Cafeteria surveys, elections, debates, WOW Weekend Decades Karaoke, Be the Match (during which students register for the National Marrow Donor Program), All American Cook-Out, Town Hall Meeting in Farmer Hall, Carnival for a Cure, Trunk or Treat, transportation to Montgomery for Higher Ed Day (which includes a free ride, shirt, breakfast, lunch) and the exhibition game against Auburn, Blood Drive, Dine N' Draw, Senior Elite Night, Green Apple Day of Service, College Colors Day, Montevallo Votes Concert (which includes barbecue, Kona Ice, performance, and Shelby County representatives), the Freshman Forum Senator Showcase, and the Big Event.

Taking place in Farmer Hall, SGA hosts Karaoke Nights. SGA member Lily Elmore says, "My favorite [events were] probably our karaoke nights. We had really great crowds, and since both were towards the end of their respective semesters, the events were a great way to de-stress from finals studying. Plus, mocktails!"

As the leaves of the Main Quad begin to change and the smells of cotton candy fill the air, SGA puts on its third annual Carnival for a Cure on October 7. This event's profits go to the American Cancer Society. With ticket prices at only 10¢ each, students and their guests can go from moon bounce to corn hole to face painting, all while supporting an amazing cause.

SGA President Hunter Huie chose this cause, because it is "near and dear to many hearts" because "most people know someone who has had cancer." This gives the entire student body a chance to join in efforts against a common problem and to support each other through their experiences. It is a beautiful chance to, as Huie says, "touch the whole campus" and make a difference in many lives while also supporting others who suffer from similar obstacles.

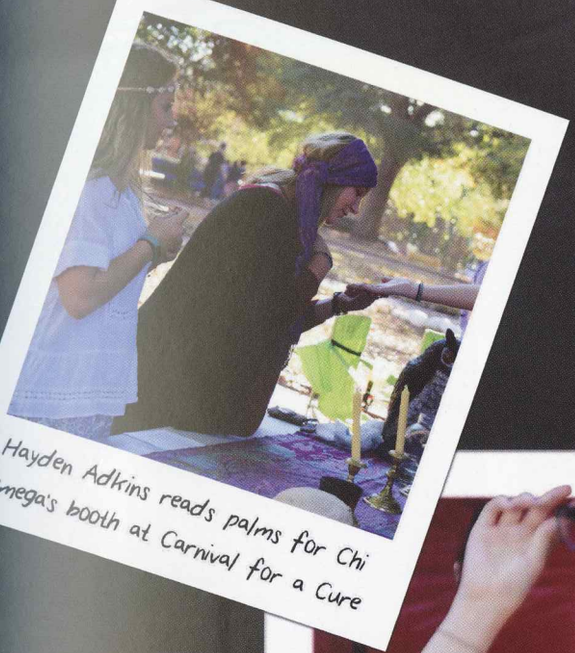
Stroll to the Poll gives students the chance to meet in Main Quad and walk in waves to the Montevallo polling location in order to cast their vote for the 2016 Presidential Election. Jamie Hass live streams the event and recalls, "The highlight was when we arrived at Orr Park and finally cast our vote!

During The Big Event, SGA members cooperate with other UM organizations to give back to the local area. This service for the town of Montevallo includes yard work, small construction projects, painting walls or fences, and anything else the community needs to be done. Freshman SGA member DeAndra Hodge recalls, "I was a part of the freshman forum this past school year, and we had to go to the home of an elderly couple and help them trim their trees and dig up some ground for a garden. They were very nice and had lots of water for us to drink, and even let us play on their trampoline... My favorite part was getting to work with my fellow freshman forum and SGA members. We made a great team, and we were all really good friends, especially those of us on Freshman forum."

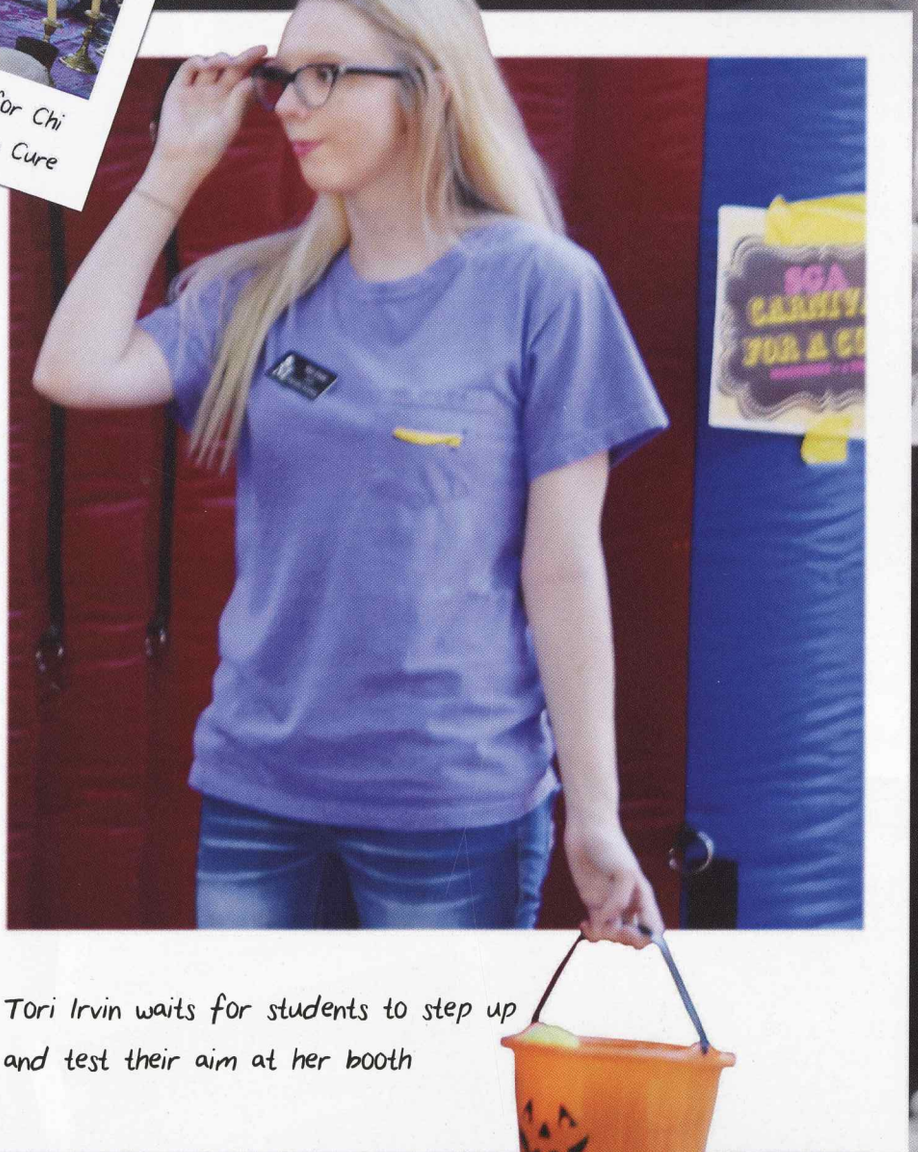
SGA Officers Brian Kirkwood, Hunter Huie & Claire Quirk take a break from putting away tools and supplies to pose for a picture

Bailey Judd sells Carnival for a Cure tickets used to participate in the various activities offered at the other booths

A group of students mingle outside Farmer after participating in the Big Event and await the arrival of the Frios cart



Hayden Adkins reads palms for Chi Omega's booth at Carnival for a Cure



Tori Irvin waits for students to step up and test their aim at her booth

FOOD TRUCK THURSDAYS

In an effort to bring a greater sense of community and more dining options to the Montevallo campus for students, staff, faculty, and locals, the Office of Partnerships and Outreach starts Food Truck Thursdays. The trucks, often one to three per Thursday, are announced on Thursday morning along with the possibilities of discounts or coupons. The event itself takes place from 11:00-1:00 on the Brooke Quad. The trucks featured this year include: Chubbfathers, Eugene's Hot Chicken, Frio's Popsicles, Old Town Pizza, Repicci's Italian Ice and Gelato, Rooski's: Flatbreads and More, Ivory LeShore's Gourmet Bread Pudding & Cheesecake, Naughty But Nice Kettle Corn, Master Taco, Lazy Boy BBQ, Urban Smoke, and Slap Happy BBQ.

Food Truck Thursdays began scheduling with the help of the Birmingham Food Truck Coalition. However, the weekly event was so successful that food trucks began calling the university on their own, asking to come and participate. Most of these trucks are based in Birmingham and schedule far in advance, which made the UM Thursday booking difficult at first, but Director of Partnerships and Outreach Kelli Holmes recalls, "Once the trucks participate one time, they are typically begging to come back."

Holmes goes on to say, "I believe students, faculty, and staff having additional dining opportunities was the most successful aspect of Food Truck Thursdays, [but] it's important to note that in order for us to continue Food Truck Thursdays, we need people to partake when the food trucks are on campus."

Jared Wright, Alex Belli & Emily Gabhart try to choose one of the many delicious Frios flavors

Faculty and staff, as well as students, enjoy the extended food options that Food Truck Thursdays provide

Photo Courtesy of Falcon Foods Instagram

Repicci's Italian Ice & Gelato was a favorite vendor among the students

Photo Courtesy of Falcon Foods Instagram

The hand from the void was a welcome sight to the hungry patrons of Lazy Boy BBQ

CHEF JET

Farmer Hall holds three of the dining options on campus, Moe's Southwest Grill, Einstein Bros. Bagels, and Chef Jet Noodle Bowls. Chef Jet is new to campus this year, as it replaced a restaurant that served healthy and allergen free choices, including hummus bowls. Due to low student response to the former, Chef Jet was put in place for a new variety of foods.

This restaurant is known for its food's quality and serves combinations of Asian noodles with customizable components for students to choose from. It was also chosen as a replacement because it would work in the small space it was given, allow lower price ranges, and provide new food options not found elsewhere on campus. However, this location in Farmer Hall will again see a change, as a new ice cream restaurant is planning to open there in the fall of 2017.

Falcon Foods hosts a survey in front of Chef Jet Noodle Bowls
Photo Courtesy of Falcon Foods Instagram

JETER HALL

In 1965, the university bought the Montevallo Elementary School, which later became the campus' Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences building. This new building, known to students and alumni as Jeter Hall, held classes within the disciplines of Geography, History, Political Science, Social Work, and Sociology until the year 2011.

Jeter was not short on quirks. As it was first an elementary school, the restrooms were created and scaled with children in mind, and this did not change when the building changed into the hands of primarily adults. Unfortunately, Jeter also had easy access points on the outside of the building that animals found and used to enter the building. Dr. Clark Hultquist recalls, "During one class, while I was teaching, a squirrel poked its head through a hole in the tile, lost interest in my lecture, and ran off. Several students witnessed this odd event."

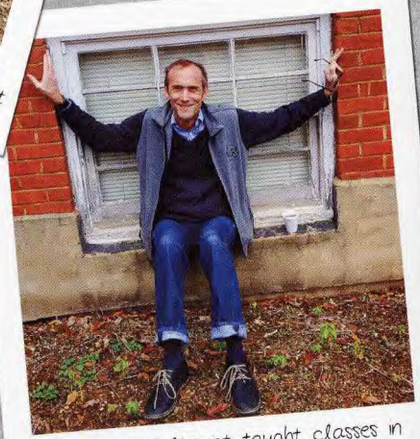
Sociology major Katie Scott Hilyer, graduate of spring 2014, had most of her classes in Jeter. Hilyer remembers, "I spent a lot of time there. It got to where it just felt like home. I knew everyone I passed for the most part and knew all of the teachers in the building, whether I had their classes or not." Alumna Laura Quattrochi, graduate of spring 2015, also looks back on her experiences in Jeter with nostalgia. "I was a psychology and social work double major, so I went there for my social sciences... A great memory [of Jeter] was actually my first day at Montevallo. After orientation, I went to Jeter, signed up for classes, and met Dr. Newell, my future social work advisor."

Aside from its lovable foibles, Jeter also had some major issues. The building was not ADA compliant, as it needed an elevator and handicap accessible restrooms. The cost of fixing these issues in addition to updating and refurbishing the whole building were far greater than the price of demolition, so after standing for over one hundred years, Jeter was torn down during the winter break this year. Dr. Hultquist says, "While I recognized many people had fond memories of the structure, it was time for it to go. As a professional historian, I realize just because something is old does not mean it is worth saving."

In order to fill the void that Jeter's absence had created, the university entered a consortium with the City of Montevallo and Shelby County in 2012, took possession of the Alabama Power Building, and began renovations for the University of Montevallo on Main, known commonly across campus as UMOM. Dr. Hultquist reflects, "The upgrade over Jeter is more than stunning as we have great offices, classrooms, and amenities. Overall, we are in a much more professional environment in this building."

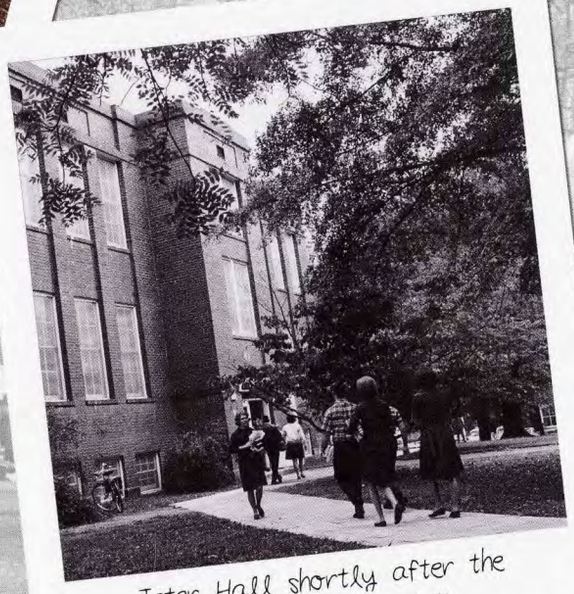
A group of history and social sciences professors gather to say a final farewell
Photo courtesy of Tracy Payne-Rockco

Dr. Ruth Truss gives a speech in front of the plaque commemorating the year Jeter was built
Photo courtesy of Tracy Payne-Rockco

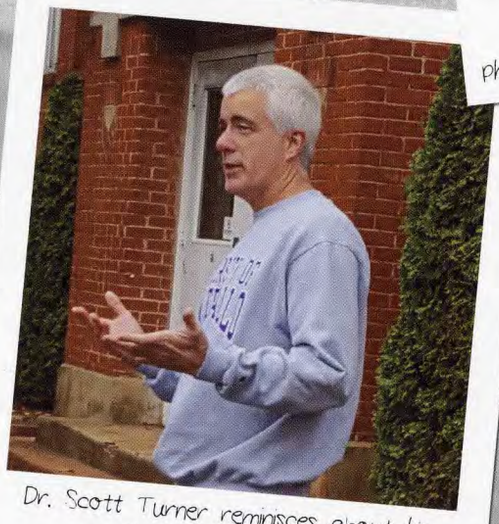


Dr. Clark Hultquist taught classes in Jeter for many years
Photo courtesy of Clark Hultquist

Jeter Hall mid-demolition
photo courtesy of UM Falcon Weekly Facebook page



Jeter Hall shortly after the university acquired it
photo courtesy of University of Montevallo Archives



Dr. Scott Turner reminisces about his time in Jeter Hall
photo courtesy of Clark Hultquist

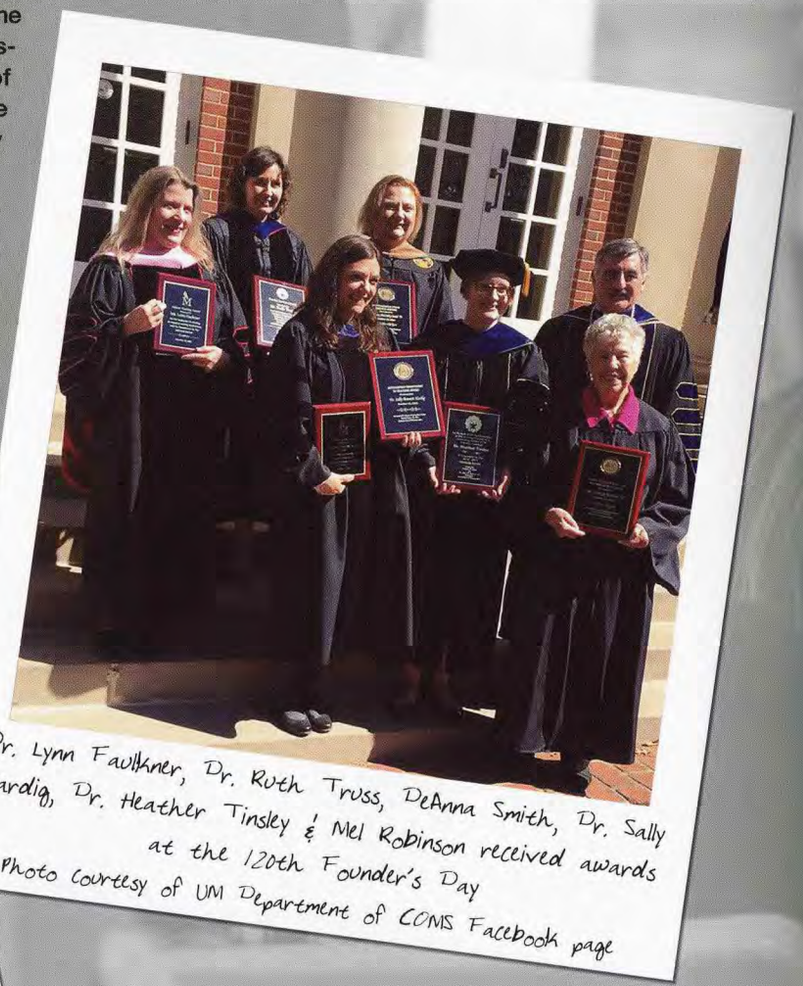
FOUNDERS' DAY

In 1926, the Founders' Day tradition of the Hiding of the Crook began as a means of building up to the day itself. The seniors of the Alabama College hid the Crook for a junior to find. The more modern tradition opens up the search to all students. The hints to the Crook's whereabouts on campus are gradually released as Founders' Day draws closer. Whoever finds the Crook gets a UM gift basket at the Founders' Day Convocation and the honor of carving their name or initials into the Crook itself.

The 120th annual Founders' Day welcomes professors, faculty, students, and alumni to celebrate on campus, especially because classes are cancelled for the celebration. Originating in 1896, Founders' Day commences in Palmer Auditorium for the Convocation, during which Dr. John Stewart II welcomes all, senior SGA Present Hunter Huie delivers the Invocation, and senior Samantha Anselmo leads the National Anthem. The senior class also participates in their Investiture, or their admission into the Community of Scholars, and puts on their robes for the first time together. The seniors take an oath, saying "In Full Consciousness of the truth and responsibility signified by the bestowal of this cap and gown, I do hereby pledge myself to uphold to the best of my ability the faith manifested in me by the University of Montevallo."

Trustee Leroy Nix functions as the keynote speaker, and the members of the University of Montevallo community, included students, faculty, and staff, are honored for their dedication to the university. Alongside this honor are more specific awards. Dr. Heather Tinsley receives the 2016 University Scholar, Dr. Ruth Truss receives the Faculty Service Award, Dr. Sally Bennett Hardig receives the Academic Advising Award. There are also Alumni Awards, such as Ms. Mel Dorrough Robinson accepting the Mary Lou Elder Williams Alumna Loyalty Award, Dr. Sally Bennett Hardig accepting the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award, and Ms. DeAnna McCarley Smith accepting the Outstanding Staff Service Award. The ceremony closes with student trustee Xavier Scruggs' Benediction and the recessional music.

After the ceremony, the crowd files into Anna Irvin for lunch and free gifts in honor of the 120th milestone for Founder's Day. Legacy the Falcon is also stationed outside of the dining hall for students to see and take pictures with. Following this, there is an open house at Flowerhill from 2:30-4:00, during which President and Mrs. John Stewart will be there to mix, mingle, and spend time with all who attend. The day is finished out with yet another tradition, the Life Raft Debate, which takes place at 7:00 in Palmer Auditorium.



Dr. Lynn Faulkner, Dr. Ruth Truss, DeAnna Smith, Dr. Sally Hardig, Dr. Heather Tinsley & Mel Robinson received awards at the 120th Founder's Day
Photo courtesy of UM Department of COMS Facebook page

Seniors Megan Liveoath and Wendy Johnson mingle with their peers and professors outside of Palmer Hall after the Founders' Day Convocation
Photo credits: Amanda South

LIFE RAFT DEBATE

This year marks the 19th annual Life Raft Debate. During this event, the students gather to watch as four UM faculty members go head-to-head to convince their audience of who should have the last seat on the hypothetical life raft based on the value of their discipline. The debate consists of two rounds, with the panelists using their allotted time to make their initial argument in the first round and to make their rebuttals in the second. Dr. Scott Varagona acts at the Devil's Advocate who speaks against all of the candidates and advocates letting them all "drown." The participants for this year are Carey Heatherly of the UM library and archives, Dr. Erin Chandler of the English Department, Kyle Moore of the Theatre Department, and Dr. Andrea Eckelman of Political Science. To preface the debates, Dr. Varagona lays out the rules: all clothing must remain on at all times, no excessive profanity, no cheap gimmicks, and no bribing the audience—especially with beer. The most important rule is, "It's the apocalypse! There are no rules!"

Heatherly kicks off the debate with his defense by saying, "Archivists are not just creepy people in the library." He then addresses the importance of archives in upholding culture, its history, and its values; archivists themselves are the keepers of knowledge who pass it down and keep it alive. The Devil's Advocate asserts that Heatherly is "no fun" for always shushing people, as he did to Dr. Varagona earlier.

Dr. Chandler then takes the stage dressed as DC's supervillian Harley Quinn. She claims that her English background has given her the skills of analysis and revision for improvement. Dr. Varagona adds another rule directed at Dr. Chandler—no weapons. She then proceeds to duel with him, Harley's bat versus the Devil's pitchfork. After the other panelists make their case, Dr. Chandler concludes by illuminating the fact that every other candidate referred to literature in their arguments, while "they can keep you alive, [she] can give you a reason to live," and she can deadlift 250 pounds. Heatherly's rebuttal is that Harley would employ violence, ensuing a dictatorship.

Moore then highlights his own skills saying, "I have a bachelor's in creativity and a three year terminal degree in getting it done" and listing his feats, such as "making it rain indoors without getting the floor wet." Moore's experience in the the Theater Department has given him dexterous skill that could be used to repair the raft if needed. Dr. Varagona ripostes with, ""Aren't you supposed to talk about theatre?" and "At least we'll be able to act like we've been saved..." Moore's rebuttal is that "theater makes things come alive." He also claims to have an SD card loaded with Wikipedia information, a phone with a solar charger, and the knowledge to fix each of them. To which Dr. Varagona replies, "Jack of all trades," to be finished by an audience member, "Master of none."

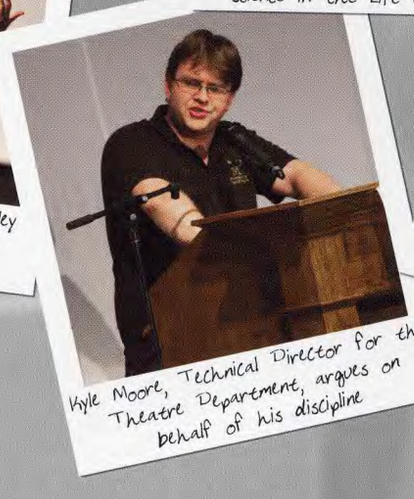
Dr. Eckelman opens with, "We knew the the world was ending from the moment Trump got the Republican nomination." Her experience with Political Science will help her uncover the theory behind government and discover why it failed society—seeing as it is the apocalypse. Dr. Eckelman claims her knowledge will help to prevent an anarchy and any other Lord of the Flies situation. The Devil's advocate responds, "If you get on the life raft and start talking politics, half the students will kill each other and the other half will jump out of the raft and drown... None of your knowledge will make any difference if we all kill each other because we don't get along."

The audience then votes, and Political Science wins! Dr. Eckelman is welcomed onto the life raft as the other candidates are respectfully left behind in the chaos of the apocalypse. Dr. Eckelman looks back on her experience and victory saying, "It was absolutely amazing, every faculty member should do this at least once."

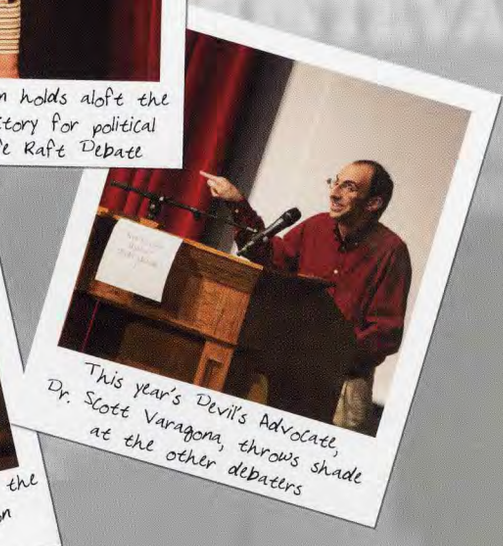
Dr. Andrea Eckelman holds aloft the oar after her victory for political science in the Life Raft Debate

Dr. Erin Chandler dresses as Harley Quinn in attempt to earn the pop culture vote

After his initial argument, University Archivist Carey Heatherly reacts to the Devil's Advocate's heckling



Kyle Moore, Technical Director for the Theatre Department, argues on behalf of his discipline



This year's Devil's Advocate, Dr. Scott Varagona, throws shade at the other debaters

COMICS EXIBIT

The 5th annual "Language of Comics" exhibit, put on by Dr. Alexander Beringer's English 234 "Introduction to Comics and Graphic Narratives," is themed "Comics of Alabama" and, as such, allows for local graphic novel artists and writers to see their own portion of the exhibit. The local aspect of the research allows students to directly contact and interview their assigned artists for their section of the exhibit. This more direct and personal research has not been available before this year. Using Adobe Photoshop, the students create informative displays on which to present their knowledge gained from the class and their group's personal research. Mallory Currie, a member of Delaine Derry Green's research group, recalls the challenge of learning how to use Photoshop, "it forced me to step up and learn how to use something I had never used before. I really appreciate the experience, as it was enriching, but frustrating." Currie also "enjoyed talking to Green because she gave great answers" that really helped with her research, understanding of the comic, and personal connection to the text. "The work itself is like reading the words of a friend, so being able to talk to her about it in person was like talking to a friend in real life."

Another new aspect of the Comics Exhibit is the featuring of morning workshops open to students on a first-come, first-serve basis. Artist Chris Garrison speaks at the first workshop "Constructing a Comic Strip Sequence," teaching about hand drawn comics and their visual storytelling techniques (general design, character posing and facial expressions, panel compositions, camera angles, etc.). Garrison creates a small comic during his presentation as he explains. The second is Beverly Toole's "Webcomics: For Those Who Have a Story to Tell No Matter What!" that addresses visual storytelling and how to successfully be an independent artist (self-management, promotion, and publishing) in an online world. This workshop also gives students a chance to use the software that Toole references in her presentation. Dr. Beringer says, "I thought the workshops were great! We received such a warm reception from students that it seems very likely that we'll do workshops in some form next year."

The exhibit is preceded by the roundtable discussion with some of the artists featured—Chris Fason, Chris Garrison, Susan Knowles, Tim Rocks—allowing guests to ask questions about their work and the comics industry itself. The panel is held in the new Pat Scales Room on the second floor of the Carmichael Library. Dr. Beringer initiates the panel by asking a few questions before turning to the audience for questions. Despite their love of holding a printed paper copy, the artists discuss their translation into an online media and the effects of doing so. According to the artists, people are more willing to publish to the internet because of its wide and reactive audience, immediate feedback, and low cost, unlike printed copies. However, digital creation has spoiled them with the "undo" button and fast pace. The artists also speak to the liberties of being a visual storyteller—they can make every single decision on their own with total control of placement, color, composition, theme, and other elements without the help of any other person.

After the panel, everyone heads down to the main floor of the library to officially experience the exhibit along with catering from Eclipse. The exhibit includes Jason Aaron, Chris Fason, Chris Garrison, Delaine Derry Green, Susan Knowles, Tim Rocks, and Beverly Toole. This was a chance for visitors to meet the artists in a more informal setting along with the exhibit creators; the artists also brought some paper copies of their works to sell. During this time, students finally have the chance to meet their artists in person, and their artists get to see the fruits of their effort. While some of the artists featured were unable to attend, it is visible on the faces of those who did how excited, honored, and proud they each are to see an entire display for themselves and an exhibit for their line of work in the local area.

Jonathan Brewer, who researched Tim Rocks' comics, recalls, "the most rewarding part of the experience was the interview process, as it was extremely interesting to hear how someone forms ideas and transfers them to the page. I loved meeting my author and speaking to him about which comics and artists influence his works...By the time I was done, I felt like I had really done some good by bringing some much needed appreciation to the artform of comics within the community."

Jonathan Brewer, Jim Vicil & Mary Light's group worked closely with local artist Tim Rocks
Photo courtesy of Alexander Beringer

Emily Freeland, Dakota Goff & Camryn Brooks worked alongside local artist Susan Knowles
Photo courtesy of Alexander Beringer

Yet another new experience is the inclusion of a virtual reality experience, "Walking Through the Comic," created by the new Virtual Reality at the University of Montevallo, or VRUM, that begins an hour before the artist panel. Primarily created by artist Jesus "Chuy" Guizar, this virtual reality environment brings to life the illustrations of Garrison, Rocks, and Knowles using a Google program called Tilt Brush, that allow users to paint, moreso to sculpt with lines, in a virtual three-dimensional space. The virtual space is created to work with the HTC Vive, the VR headset used during the exhibit. Guizar remembers having to "practice once a week this whole semester by just painting anything [he] could think of until [he] got the hang of how it works" and spending "five or six hours painting almost everything" for the exhibit after VRUM decided the visual plan.

Dr. Brendan Beal, the professor who made this project happen, worked with the VRUM members weekly to discuss virtual reality and the contents of their main project featured in the Comics Exhibit. Dr. Beal reflects on the "immersive experience" of virtual reality itself, which applies to the corporeal experience accomplished by "Walking Through the Comic." The VR space included a room with paintings on either side of it. As the viewers put on the headset and enter the world, they see the room as merely this, yet upon walking around, they see the visual illusions. The paintings only appear to be flat on the walls, but from other angles, the viewers discover their sculpture-like forms. The "paintings" recede far back enough for the viewers to be able to peer inside of them. According to Guizar, some other aspects of the room were "a table with a vase of flowers, a lamp, a couch, a cat, and a spider beneath the table."

"Walking Through the Comics" is an amazing display of Montevallo interdisciplinary collaboration between visual art, literary studies, and gaming organizations. The use of VR gives viewers a truly unique experience at the Comics Exhibit, as the artwork is brought to life around them.

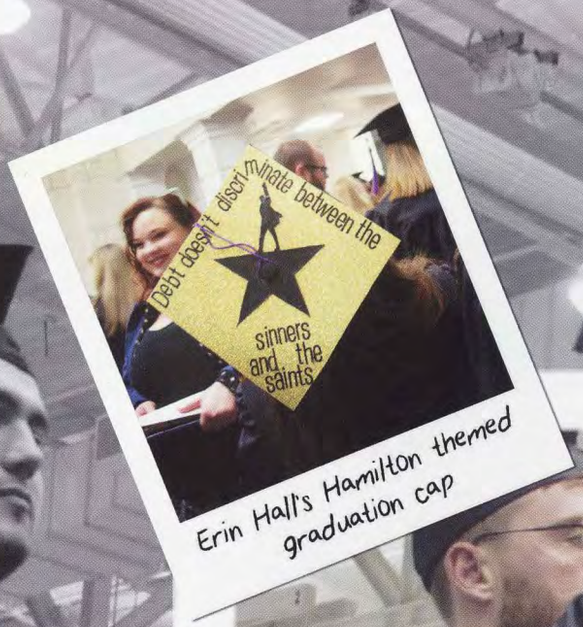
You can find Guizar's time-lapse video here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d71N1YwjKWI&feature=youtu.be

Dr. Beringer introduces the panel of artists before opening up the floor for audience members to ask questions
Photo courtesy of Alexander Beringer

Students William Felch, Brinkley Jones & Alex Coleman worked closely with local artist Chris Garrison
Photo courtesy of Alexander Beringer

Students Joshua Gibson & Mallory Currie worked closely with local artist Delaine Derry Green
Photo courtesy of Alexander Beringer

Brooklyn Terry, Olivia Rutledge, & Kristen Hayden worked with local artist Chris Fason for their presentation
Photo courtesy of Alexander Beringer



Erin Hall's Hamilton themed graduation cap

Hayley Hand graduates
Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts
degree with University Honors and is recognized
for Superior Academic Achievement

Alexandria Cottrell's magical cap celebrates the accomplishments of black women

FALL GRADUATION

Fall Graduation begins as the Montevallo Masters organize the graduates in their respective colleges outside of the Student Activity Center. The masses of students then file into the gym, following their college's banner. Although the fall commencement is not on Flower Hill, graduating senior Zac Clifton recalls that "the SAC had a nice, intimate feel to it." After all are seated, Dr. Stewart gives his welcome and opening statements, followed by the SGA President Hunter Huie who gives the invocation. At Huie's close, the students stand for the national anthem, and the keynote speaker, retired Nevada Supreme Court Justice Nancy Saitta, begins her speech.

The students then each receive their degrees and a handshake from Dr. Stewart as well as a handshake from the dean of their specific college. As the newly graduated students finish collecting their diplomas, they are inducted into the Alumni Society and unite in the singing of the alma mater. The ceremony is concluded with Senior Class President Lito Hilario's benediction, and the graduates leave to celebrate with their peers, friends, and families.

Clifton goes on to say, "It felt like starting a new chapter of a book, but there was also some sadness. I knew that the friends I made would be leaving and I wouldn't get to spend as much time with them as I could when we had class everyday. I also felt like I was leaving a bit of home behind, as the English department had become like a second home because of how great the professors were to me. I felt like I grew, not just as a student, but as a person... I was happy, though, because I worked hard at Montevallo and to walk across that stage and get that diploma felt so awesome after putting in all the effort."

Keynote speaker Justice Nancy M. Saitta gives her address to the graduating seniors

Toyal McLain enthusiastically accepts her Educational Specialist Degree

Assembled graduates listen to President Stewart during his welcome speech

SPRING GRADUATION

The Spring Graduation is typically held outside on Flowerhill. Due to weather complications this year, that tradition of the ceremony cannot take place, and the Spring Graduation takes place in the Student Activity Center. Conducted by Dr. Joe Ardovino, the Wind Ensemble opens the ceremony with prelude music, followed by a trio and the Processional played by Edward Elgar.

Dr. Stewart gives an introduction, after which Student Trustee Xavier Scruggs gives the Invocation. Next, Laura Thomas leads the National Anthem before SGA President Hunter Huie takes the stage to give his remarks. After Huie's speech, Senior Class President Lito Hilario addresses his fellow students with his speech. Following this, the keynote speaker, Emmy-nominated documentarian Kirk Saduski delivers his words to the graduating class. Afterward, the Wind Ensemble plays "Disney at the Movies," as foreshadowed by Hilario's speech. Then the seniors begin their much awaited ceremony of accepting their degrees from their respective colleges, receiving their welcome into the Alumni Association, and singing the Alma Mater as led by the newly graduated Tucker Ratcliff.

Spring graduate Carrie "Cowan" Angell comments, "The only thing that could've made this graduation a million times better would have been having the ceremony outside on Flowerhill. That was a huge bummer to myself and a lot of my classmates. Either way the end result was the same, and we still left with diplomas, so there's no point in complaining about it." While disappointed about the relocation of the ceremony, Angell does go on to say, "The event itself was exciting, it's a huge accomplishment for any student. For me personally, it was a little bittersweet, the next life stage is always more daunting than the last. No matter what, I'm still really looking forward to what's to come next!"

Tori Sanders & her fellow graduates exit the McChesney Student Activity Center at the close of the ceremony

After the commencement, Amber James is congratulated by her tiny supporter

Sylvan Baker and her fellow graduates clap for the veterans in attendance

Art major Megan Liveoak's time at Montevallo is reflected in her Van Gogh style portrayal of the campus

Television & film producer Kirk Saduski addresses the graduates and assembled guests with his keynote speech

Josie Harrington's costume design studies with the Theatre Department were a huge influence on her hand embroidered graduation cap

Gold Leader Amanda Swift prepares to present gifts to her cabinet members during the College Night Pep Rally. These tokens serve to welcome them to the season and their role within it

COLLEGE NIGHT

28-29 College Night Mixer

30-31 Purple & Gold Mixers

32-33 Side Leaders

34-35 Purple Cabinet

36-37 Gold Cabinet

38-39 Ribbon Hanging, Sign Reveal & Pep Rally

40-41 Cheer, Volleyball & Ultimate Frisbee

42-43 Basketball

44-45 Purple Show

46-47 Gold Show

48-49 Winner & Sunday Strike

50-51 Dedication & Mr. & Ms. Montevallo

52-53 Special Tradition

COLLEGE NIGHT MIXER

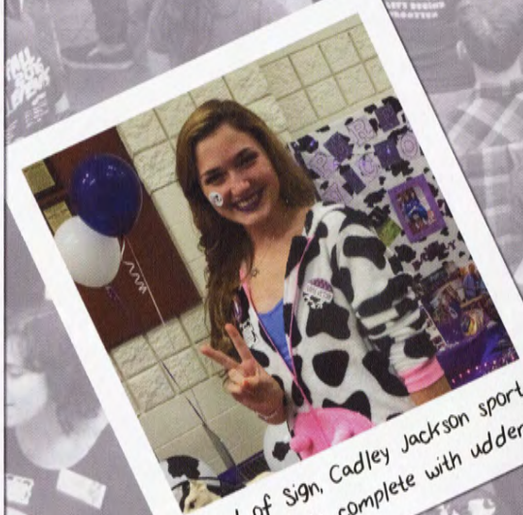
As new students enter the SAC, they are welcomed by a sea of Purple and Gold smiling faces. They pass by informative displays that detail each aspect of College Night, encouraging participation for each person and their unique talents. The students learn about both sides, but the more informative aspect of the College Night Mixer is the mingling with potential side members; these conversations usually decide where new students belong. After filtering and dividing into their respective sides of the room, now more prominently arranged by color, the recruits join in each side's first circle up of the year. Each side proudly sings its song and the recruits immediately start trying to learn the words.

Many students attend the College Night Mixer to help them decide which side they want to pursue. Olivia Self recalls,

Ashton Irvin and Mary Grace Tracy recruit new Purples for behind the scenes positions

Danielle Stallworth and Jamie Haas mingle at the mixer

Purple Leaders Giselle Casadaban and Eliah McCutchen pose in the Purple's photo booth



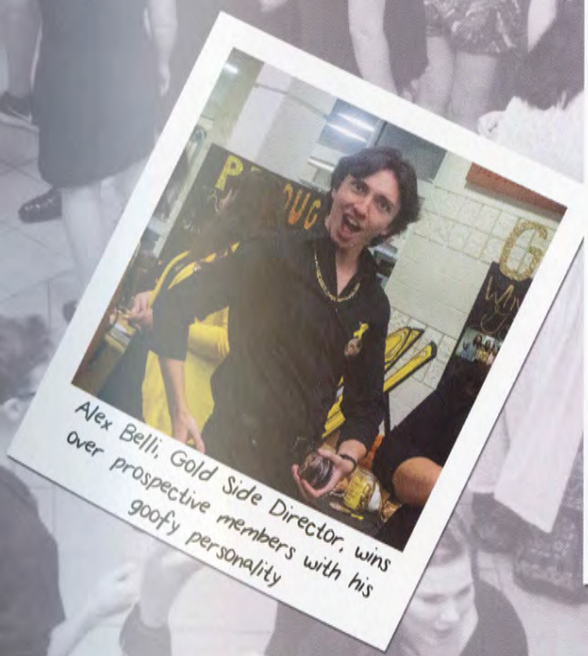
Head of Sign, Cadley Jackson sports a cow onsie, complete with udders

"Seeing the differences in the sides is what helped me choose. I could tell where I fit based on the conversations I had. It actually took me the whole mixer to decide." Despite already knowing many Golds because of her sorority, Self says, "the more [Purples] I met at the mixer the more I felt at home, and I just had a gut feeling that it was where I belonged...I also absolutely loved circling up. I had never seen a circle up before so I was very confused about the process, but I was surrounded by non-babies who told me beforehand when to poof and to run in the middle so I wouldn't be shocked the whole time. In that moment I truly knew this was a family, and that I was meant to be a part of it."

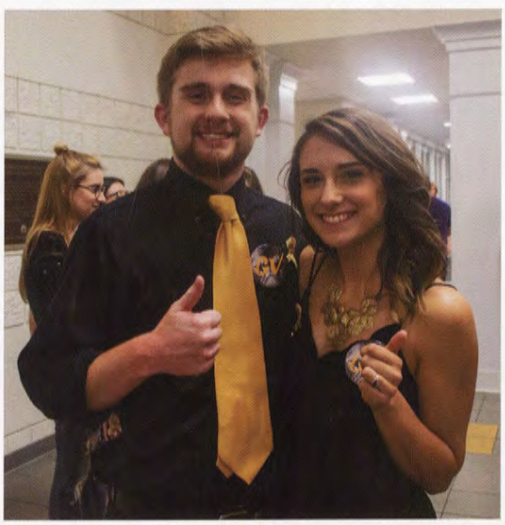
Some students have already decided for their personal reasons, usually because of seeing previous shows, but the College Night Mixer solidifies their decision. Sarah Engle decided upon seeing Gold Side's "energy and charisma" during a College Night show, but when attending the Mixer, Engle said, "I was surprised by how many people made the effort to speak to me, a new freshmen. All of the cabinet members, specifically Jared Max Wright and Alex Belli, made the effort to inform me about what I was 'getting myself into' and encouraged me to get myself involved! The mixer was a great place of introduction, and I was thrilled to finally make the statement that 'I'm a Gold!'" Also predetermined, Baby Purple Nicole Anderson recollects, "Going to the mixer definitely solidified my choice because I was able to meet more people from the side than I ever had before. I also got to see all the opportunities and love given to me from this side. The highlight of the event for me was the first circle up of the year. It was amazing getting to join in and sing the song of the side that I love so much."

Bailey Klepac and Meredith Morgan show off their Gold Side Spirit

Gold Cheerleaders Sydney Darabaris and Maddy Parkin inform new Golds about cheerleading



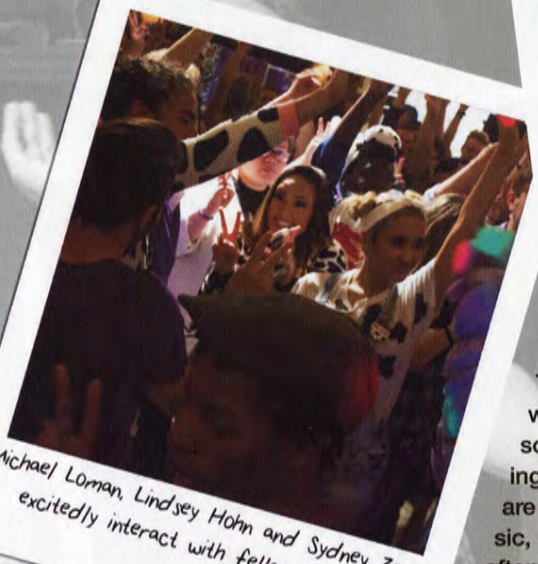
Alex Belli, Gold Side Director, wins over prospective members with his goofy personality



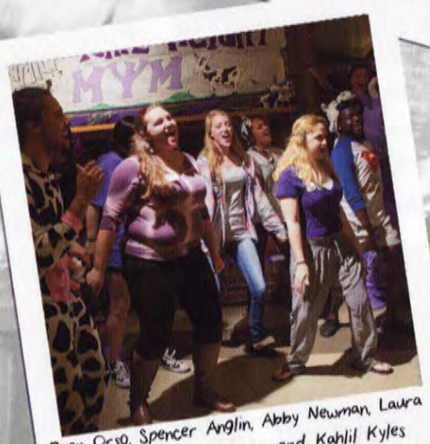
Gold Leaders Blane Freeman and Amanda Swift flash their GVs between meeting people while dressed in their black and Gold best

PURPLE SIDE MIXER

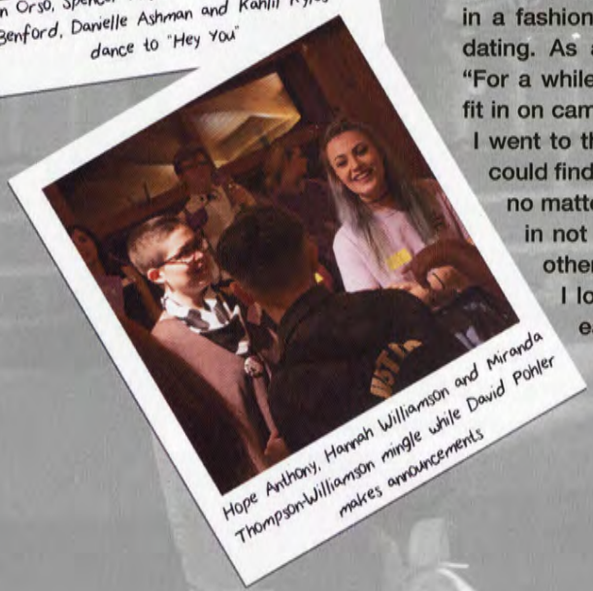
Zoey Edison, Tyler Allen, Casey Roberts and Brittany Wetzel react to a Purple Wedding



Michael Loman, Lindsey Hohn and Sydney Zari excitedly interact with fellow purples



Ryan Orso, Spencer Anglin, Abby Newman, Laura Benford, Danielle Ashman and Kahlil Kyles dance to "Hey You"



Hope Anthony, Hannah Williamson and Miranda Thompson-Williamson mingle while David Pohler makes announcements

The Baby Purple Mixer is an event in which new Purple members come to socialize with the old in hopes of finding a family they can join. New Purples are greeted by informative displays, music, and food; a staple to the Purple Side often served at their mixers is the Purple Cow Float, which uses grape soda to give it the famous purple color. Another must for the mixers is the presence of local Vintage Purple DJ Zachary Banks. The Baby Purple Mixer peaks at the circle up, where the Babies learn the Purple Side Song. Including all of the Purples who will compete together; the completed circle emphasizes the "united circle" and thus the "united side." Cydni Taylor, a Baby Purple this year, "chose Purple Side for the sense of family and unity." Taylor, like others new to College Night, found her family (Jonathan Mendoza, Tyon Hudson, Cameron Trower, and James Davis) by attending the mixer and mingling in a fashion that she compared to speed dating. As a freshman, Taylor recollects, "For a while, I didn't know where I would fit in on campus in general, but as soon as I went to the Baby Purple Mixer I knew I could find friends who would stick by me no matter what. I found lifelong friends in not only my Purple family, but the others playing alongside me as well. I loved the sense of unity across each part of College Night (production and pre-production.) At the end of the day, we all gather under something we love and that's Purple Side." Looking back, her favorite part of the mixer was "circling up with Purple Side for the first time. At the time, I didn't know any of the words to the side song, but I didn't feel any judgment at all. We were all singing freely for the side we love."

Senior Purple, Keshia McClantoc, said this very process of "watching all of the new babies get adopted and knowing they have found a home in Purple Side" is her favorite part of the mixer every year. The family system branches through all different relationships, and, in a group of such welcoming people, the families grow rapidly each year. The families are unique to Purple Side and help to integrate new members of the side, so that they can feel included as soon as possible. It forms bonds between the respective members, and the branching functions as a network of both support and love among members of the side. Speaking from her experience as a Baby Purple to now, McClantoc, asserts, "You come into Purple Side full of this sort of fascination and without knowing what's going on, and then by the time you're a senior you get to pass everything that you've learned unto all the new Baby Purples. It's a really beautiful legacy and process. Getting a Baby Purple is a really unique experience because it allows you to connect with underclassmen and take care of them. In turn, they take care of you. It's really like finding a true family."

GOLD SIDE MIXER

Hannah Jane Sizemore twirls Savannah Willard on the dance floor

Gold leaders past and present pose in the photo booth

Haley Barnett and Teresier McGough discuss Gold Side Athletics

2015 Gold Leader, Stacy Daniels, & Ryan Havard enjoy the mixer

The Gold Side Mixer is a chance for the newly declared Golds to interact with their older counterparts. In this introduction to the side, new Golds learn their new side's chants, introduce themselves to each other, watch the Gold Side video, and circle up. The event is predominantly meant to allow all Gold members to mingle and get to know each other better in preparation for College Night. Freshman Gold Zelma Cable asserts, "I decided to go Gold, and stay Gold, because I have yet to meet anyone on the side that didn't inspire me to be better, work harder, develop a more positive attitude, or grow as a person in some way. The love and passion every Loyal Gold had, along with their excitement to come together and work hard for that GV, was absolutely palpable as everyone sang the side song" during the Gold Side Mixer. "Every interaction I had since I joined the side only served to solidify my decision" as "each person that I spoke with gave me a warm welcome and did anything they could to both help me find a place on the side and to make me feel at home." Looking back, Senior Gold Miles Jenkins remembers "coming in as a freshman all wide-eyed with no clue" what he was getting himself into, and "seeing all of the upperclassmen [he] didn't know yet getting fired up for something that was still a mystery to [him]." Jenkins explains that his love for the side and extent of participation grew with each year and in his final attendance to the Gold Side Mixer, he felt "a duty of carrying on a legacy of what the Gold Side truly stands for" and becoming ready "to pass [the legacy] on to the next group of young and wide eyed Golds. With that comes the feeling of happiness, sadness, and relief that your job is coming to a close. To now be staring into the faces of the next generation is something very humbling!"

The Gold Side does not have a family system, but it does have an initiation tradition. While this does not exclude any proclaimed Gold who is not in attendance, the initiation does give those who do attend a sense of belonging and inclusion to their new side. The night is full of secrets to those who are not a part of it, which is another glue to the Golds' bonds with their new members. One known aspect of the ritual is that members, new and old, circle up for introductions with their usual hole that represents the very practice they are celebrating, the eternal "room for one more Gold." According to Catherine Renda, Initiation is "a fun way to get new people involved. A lot of people tell their favorite memories, and you get to hear about past leaders' crazy experiences." The event is a place "to mingle and get to talk to people you might not have known before!"

GOLD LEADERS

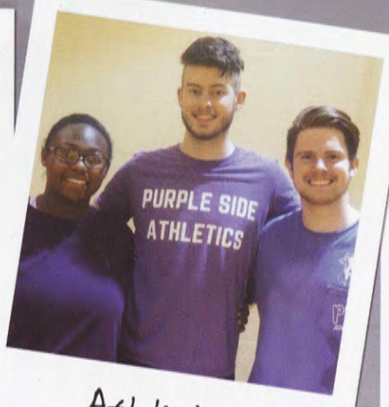
Blane Freeman and Amanda Swift

"This side has taught us both to hold our heads high no matter the circumstances, to love unconditionally, to celebrate every victory, small or large, and to always believe a miracle is about to happen. We hope you look back on this season and say, 'I was part of something bigger than myself.' We hope you take pride in the work you did and the masterpiece you created."

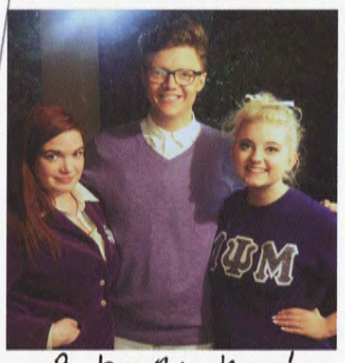
Photo credits: Marlee Webb

Purple Cabinet

Artistic Direction

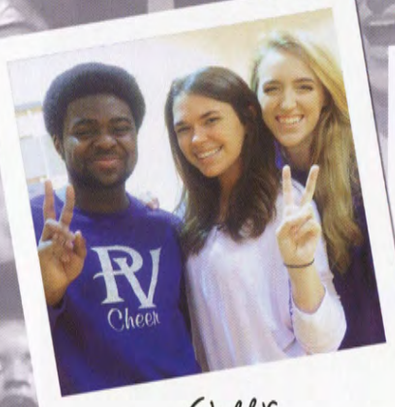


Athletics



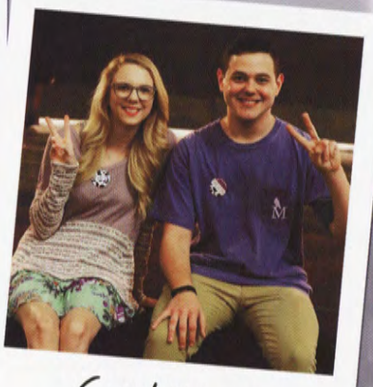
Baby Purples & Alumni Relations

Business Management



Cheer

Choreography



Conductors

Costumes

Cowtails

Direction

Eligibility

Hair & Makeup

Photo credits: Jonathan Evans

Lyrics

Music Direction

Photography

Pit Chorus

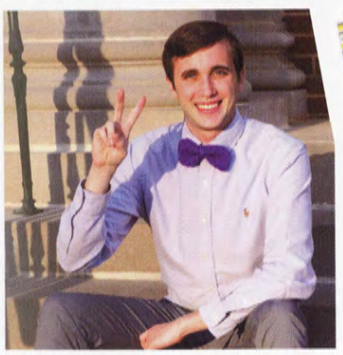
Production Book

Props

Public Relations

Scenic Painters

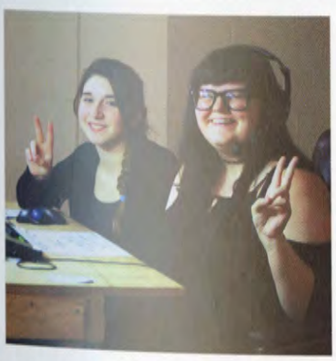
Script Supervisor



Secretary

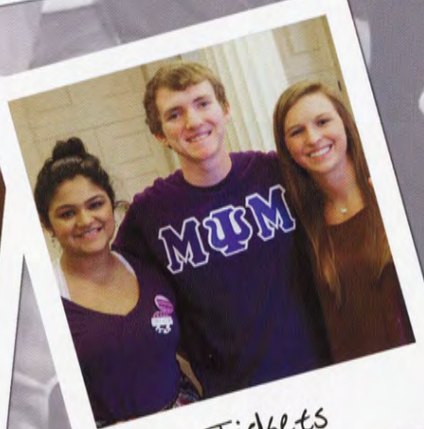
Sign

Spirit



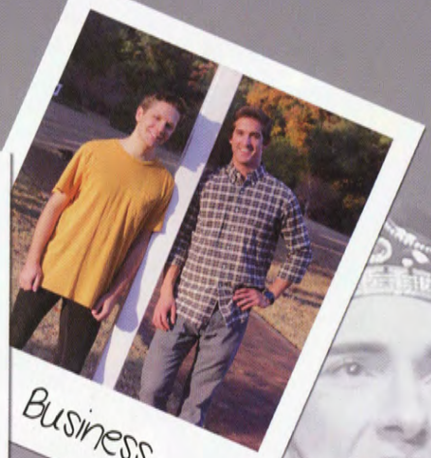
Stage Management

Technical Direction



Tickets

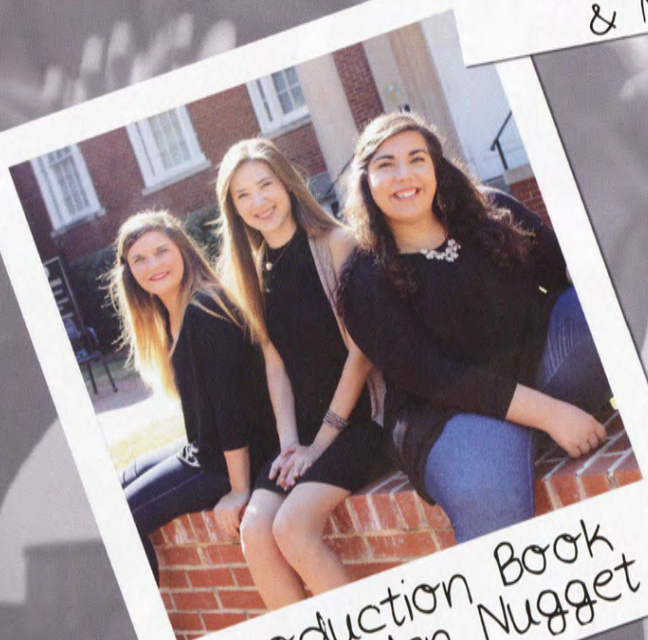
Athletics



Business

Costumes, Hair & Makeup

Music Team



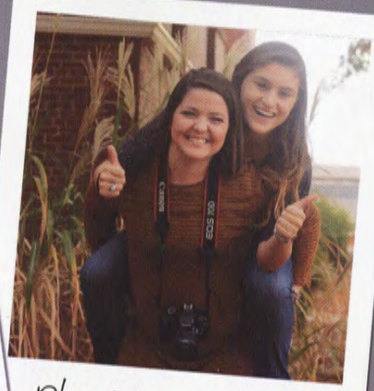
Production Book & Golden Nugget

Publicity

Photo credits: Marlee Webb

Gold Cabinet

Production Team

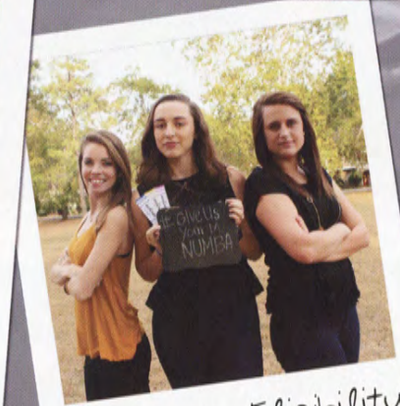


Photography

Secretary

Artistic Team

Spirit



Tickets & Eligibility

Lexie Carleton, Emcat OSteen, Lare Russell, Charlotte Clare Wickersham, and Dani Roberts gather around a newly decorated tree

After the ribbon hanging, Kelly Wacker and Marion Brown, members of the college night committee, stop to reflect on the upcoming competition on the steps of Palmer Hall0

RIBBON HANGING, SIGN REVEAL & PEP RALLY

Purple Side's Playbill Sign referencing cats, cowboys and princesses

Gold Leader Amanda Swift demonstrates the interactive aspects of the Gold Sign

Golds Jared Wright, Emily Gaston, Brinkley Jones, Morgan Alford, and Donne Bennett at the pep rally

Purple Leader Giselle Casadaban welcomes new cabinet members at the end of a cheer tunnel

The first of the homecoming traditions, Ribbon Hanging, takes place the day before classes begin as Golds and Purples join together in front of Palmer to festoon the campus with colored ribbons. The event is one of the first chances that a new side member has to participate and get involved with their side to show their support to anyone who comes to the campus. After their cheers and decorating, students return to Palmer to end the event with their side songs. This event gets students in the homecoming spirit as they arrive back to campus after winter break. The ribbons are outward representations of the hard work, dedication, and spirit of all those participating in College Night.

Jarod Brumley, Purple, believes that hanging the ribbons "shows the togetherness of College Night despite the separation of Purple and Gold." Brumley recalls, "The highlight is definitely walking around with your Purple friends/family and spreading the Purple love. The love you feel after all the ribbons are hung," seeing them throughout the season all over campus, is another high point for him.

Ashley Woodson, Gold, loves that "everyone is so kind to one another, and it's not even about who hangs up the most ribbons or who gets their ribbon higher on the tree." Woodson says, "There have been times when one of my Purple friends helped me tie a gold ribbon and vise versa. It's just an all around fun experience [where] all of your friends from both sides do something together that you're all passionate about!"

At the Sign Reveal, the first event after classes have started, signs for both sides are unveiled outside of Farmer Hall; the signs give clues to the plot, theme, or setting of the upcoming performances. Golds and Purples alike gather around the covered signs, awaiting the reveal by cheering their traditional songs. SGA President, Hunter Huie welcomes everyone and announces the leaders.

Purple Side leaders, Eliah McCutchen and Giselle Casadaban, reveal their sign with the help of their cabinet members. Purple Side's sign, painted by Cadley Jackson, resembles a playbill with a glimpse of a couple of the show's characters and scenes with a large skyscraper scene hint. Aside from construction help from Mary Grace Tracy, Jimmy Boynton, and others, Jackson designed and painted the sign herself, referencing different parts of the musical. She "loved doing the sign" and saw it as "an awesome opportunity" that required hours of work that all became worth it at her favorite part of the experience, the reveal.

Gold Side leaders, Blane Freeman and Amanda Swift, along with their cabinet members, expose their interactive sign that resembles a medieval castle with two windows. The first of which shows four women in the tower, and the second is an interactive cutout that allows students to look through. The sign is composed of recycled wood from the year prior along with new wood, which gives them enough material to feature a functioning drawbridge. Their sign was designed by their Artistic Team, which consisted of Michael LaRiviere who built the sign, Cameron Stewart who painted the majority of it, and Lauren Brown who helped with the finishing touches. Stewart "enjoyed doing the sign," and, like Jackson, said her "favorite part was seeing the finished product at the sign raising."

After the sign reveal, everyone makes their way to the pep rally in Myrick Gym. The pep rally begins with cheers, leading up to the announcement of the full cabinets of each side. The leaders also introduce the cast and cheerleaders and give each person a small gift. Gold Side's Jahleel Walker admires how "the leaders stress how important everybody is to the process" and try to "show their appreciation to all of the people involved in celebrating such an awesome tradition."

After everyone is announced, both sides end the night by circling up, with their meaningful break in the circle or lack thereof, and singing their respective side songs. Purple Side's Madison Johnson especially "loves the energy and unity that comes out of the pep rally." It "helps us to see just how many people are involved in doing so much for both sides and makes me realize just how much bigger this game is than myself, making me even more proud to be a part of it all."

CHEER, VOLLEYBALL & ULTIMATE FRISBEE

The cheerleaders act as the spirit of all of the College Night events. They lead cheers and chants for their respective sides, inspiring participation and positivity. To prepare for their role, they frequently practice routines and cheers. In addition to their normal chants, the cheerleaders must also choreograph a five to six minute halftime routine of jumps, dances, and formations to be performed during the Men's Basketball game. Gold Assistant Cheer Captain Sydney Darabaris recalled the hard work saying, "It is definitely all worth it to hear your catch phrase called later that night! The most rewarding part was being able to create a unique bond with so many people I might not normally be friends with."

Purple Cheer Coordinator Abby Newman reflected on the cheer season, saying, "Even though we didn't win college night as a whole, we still accomplished so much. I was so proud of all of my team's hard work and getting to see how far we came from our first practice to our performance on Saturday. We all become so close so quickly each year" and "miss out on a lot of sleep, but it's always worth it." Newman would like to give a special thank you to Aubrey Mixon, who "choreographed a lot of the dances even though it was her first year" and "really dove in to become a huge leader on the team."

The volleyball game is high energy as each team lunges forward to take the win. One team wins the first match, but loses the next. It comes down to the third, most exciting match in which, after each team alternates to take the lead, Purple claims the final win with the score of 25-23. Purple Assistant Coach Keontez Mitchel says, "The team is full of hard workers that came to every practice ready to get better and improve on what they had done before. It was an honor to be a part of the coaching staff and help them reach the goal of winning that we had all set for ourselves." The Purple Side set and achieved their goal, and their victory is nothing short of epic, as the Purple Side's win breaks a 20 year losing streak!

Gold Side did not let their loss get them down. Player Emily Godwin said that "[seeing] the whole side come out and [feeling] the support from everyone was amazing," and this "really cemented why [she] chose Gold Side." Additionally, Gold Side Athletic Assistant Peyton McKinley spoke of her relationship with her Gold peers saying, "The best part of being involved was getting to know each player individually. I was able to gain many friendships!" Likewise, Purple Mackenzie Haugh also emphasizes the players who made their win possible. "The best part was really getting to bond with all the girls I might not have met otherwise. It's wonderful to be able to meet people and make new bonds on Purple Side that I can carry with me. The team was full of some of the most amazing girls I've ever met, and we all just managed to play so well together. The best part was that we all were friends on and off the courts, as cliché as that sounds!"

The Ultimate Frisbee game, like the rest, is surrounded by cheering students from both sides, echoing the Gold Side's "V-I-C-T-O-R-Y" and the Purple Side's "Moo Psi Moo." The crowd enclosing the intramural field erupts in applause and song at every score, each side congratulating or motivating their players based on the score. "The Purple team stayed motivated through [their] hope to win," said Jordan Price, Purple Player. "We all wanted to show well for our side and that kept us focused." The game ends in a Gold Victory with a score of 13-3. Proud of his team's win, Gold Side Coach Will Granthum elaborates that he is pleased "everyone was able to get significant playing time." Granthum also states that he "had a blast and can't wait to do it again next year!"

The Purple Leaders rush to celebrate with the volleyball team after their first win in 20 years

Members of the Gold and Purple Ultimate Frisbee Teams leap to catch the disk in midair

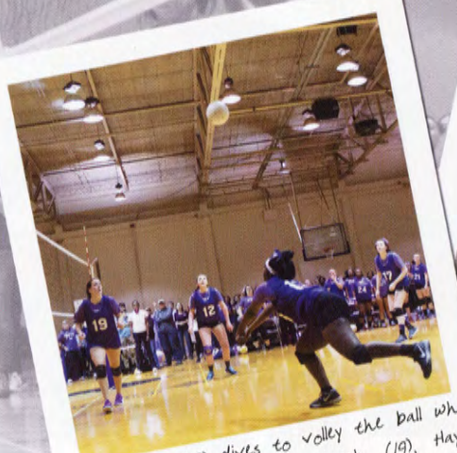
Cheerleaders Amy George, Aubrey Mixon, Chad Langley, & Danielle Harrell raise their PVs shortly before Langley performs a backflip

Volleyball players on both sides of the net surge forward in an attempt to spike the ball out of their territory

Jacob Knight (23) blocks Pierce Jacobs' (14) throw.

Sara Harbison, Sydney Parabaris, and Rylee Holt cheer during the men's Basketball Halftime Competition.

Kel Easterling (14) and Peyton Garrison (10) face-off on the field



Taylor Lewis (13) dives to volley the ball while her teammates MacKenzie Haugh (19), Haylee Dalton (12), and Lindsey Greer (17) stand ready

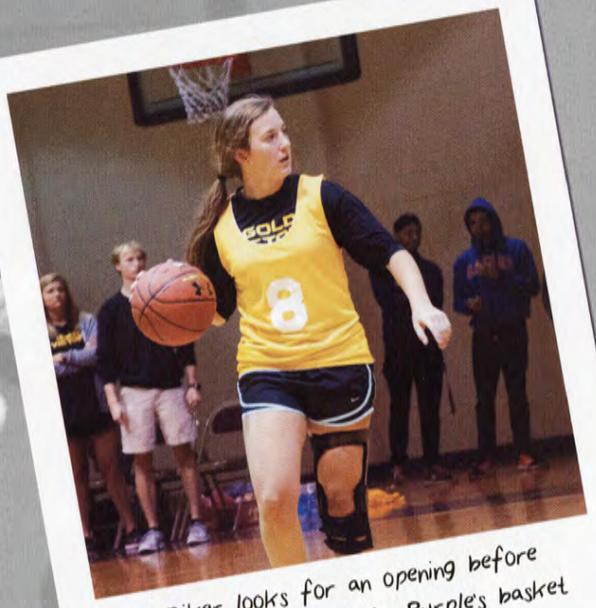
Riley Holt, Jill Brantley, Molly O'Barr, Maddy Parkin & Haley Nichols hold their GVs toward the screaming crowd of Golds on their side of the gym

The Women's Basketball game begins as the Purple players run through a tunnel of their cheerleaders, bursting out of a cow banner, and the Gold players excitedly rush onto the court. As the game progresses, the spectators cheer and groan as baskets are made and missed. Purple Side chants "We Can Take Care of You" in response to Gold Side's "V-I-C-T-O-R-Y." The players fight as hard as they can, but the game is dominated by Purple with a score of 49-21. Purple player April Lee recognizes the motivation that the crowd and the cheerleaders gave her in the game. Lee also asserts, "I'm proud of the team. We worked really hard during practice and everyone was always encouraging everybody else. We all were leaders and all had a hand in the victory."

Haley Barnett, Gold Side's Athletic Director, commented on how difficult it was to prepare for "just one single, very important game" instead of a whole athletic season. Despite their loss, Barnett claims, "The personal highlight for me is that everyone supported us throughout and we never gave up. We tried our best until the very end. It was a very rewarding experience, and I am so very proud of everyone's hard work."

The Men's Basketball game, taking place in the Myrick gym, is played into an ongoing tie, each team inching forward into the lead. Gold Side's Judson Motes is able "to stay motivated" by "drawing energy from the crowd and how everybody plays with a lot of emotion and pride. Every year both sides are amped up from start to finish, and it creates a great environment to play in." The game is not won until the final 3.5 seconds as Emmanuel Higgins of the Purple Side shot the final basket resulting in a score of 43-41. The crowd goes wild, as the Purple Side wins the game.

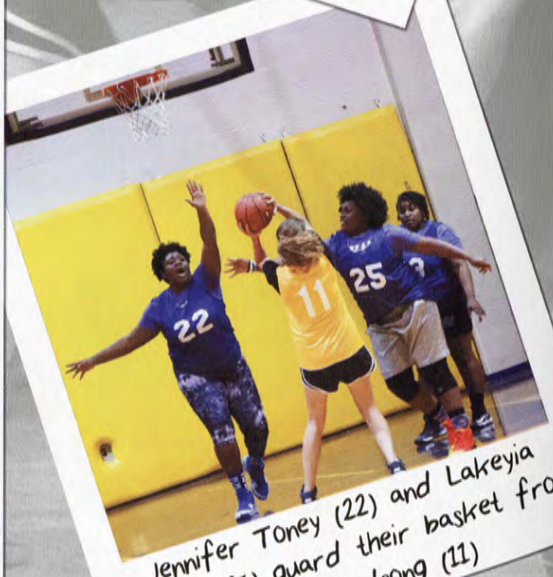
Pierce Jacobs, Purple Side Small Forward and Athletics Coordinator, realizes that "the most challenging part is rallying the team to stay encouraged and play on after being down by so much at the half," and that motivation is what won the game. Jacobs also wants to give a shout



Kate Riker looks for an opening before making a rush toward the Purple's basket

Cornered Purple Jennifer Toney (22) attempts to pass the ball to her teammate

Jordan Fore (16) maneuvers past Amber Quinn (24)

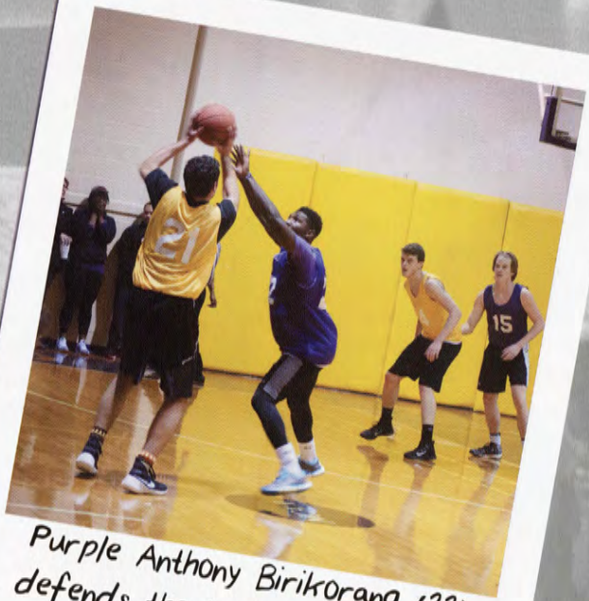


Jennifer Toney (22) and Lakeyia Conner (25) guard their basket from Sarah Birdsong (11)

BASKETBALL

out to Amber Quinn whose "dedication and leadership lead Purple Side athletics to be where it is today." Quinn, Purple Side Athletics Coordinator and Men's Basketball Coach, recalls being "told right away that Purple Side wasn't really the athletic side," which fueled their drive. "I think we've worked really hard to change [the athletic stigma] and improve athletics as a whole." Gold Side's Kel Easterling says, "The fact that Blane, Amanda, and the rest of Gold side were still proud of us even after we lost, makes me happy to be a Gold. At the end of the day, win or lose, we are still one big family and I wouldn't ask for anything more." More importantly, this can be applied to all of College Night; no matter who loses or wins, the competitive spirit of College Night brings so much of the campus together in their side's outcome, while also bringing the entire campus together to compete.

Jesse Warech (21) navigates the court, dodging Purple players to shoot a basket



Purple Anthony Birikorang (22), defends the basket from Gold Jesse Warech (21)

Johnathan Lovette (25) and Leonard Brown (21) leap above their opponents, Kel Easterling (14) and Jesse Warech (21)

Gold Jesse Warech (21) guards the ball from Purples Leonard Brown (21) and Anthony Birikorang (22)

Purple Victory Show

As Purple Side initiates the College Night productions, the curtain opens on "Showtime" to show a princess in a tower and two cowboys sitting at a table in a saloon. Each of these hand-painted sets is a distinct world, Writer Eliah McCutchen's separate worlds are brought to life by realistically depicting metals, bricks, stones, and other industrial materials. This first scene reveals Princess Eliza on her coronation day and her obvious reluctance to become queen. The audience is then introduced to her sister Princess Penelope who is frustrated with her sister's refusal to prepare for the crown. The cowboys Huck and Levi long for something beyond their ranch and town; Levi and Eliza sing of wanting something different than their limited realities.

The scene changes to the King in his throne room confiding in his "Teddy," saying, "Oh Teddy. Life is so hard. My kingdom is failing, my people are rioting... and I just beheaded my third wife this morning. What am I going to do?" His guard quickly enters with a witch, equipped with her magic wand which King George steals to cast a spell, causing the already introduced characters along with others from various musicals to end up on the streets of modern-day New York. The lights of the stage flash as the characters arrive to the new magical place surrounded by apartment buildings and Lombardi's Pizza (a character reference to the Gold Side Show the year prior). This new set stretches across the whole stage unlike those previously shown, showing the union of the various worlds and characters in one space. This space also introduces the amazing costumes, each relating to a certain broadway show and compiled from reworked, restyled, recycled costumes along with new materials. For instance, referring to "Cats," the feline costumes were hand-painted body suits made specifically for their actors and later matched on their exposed skin with face paint.

As the story progresses, the characters discover the foreign practices and objects of New York, like hot dogs. In their journey of discoveries, Princess Eliza and Levi fall in love, realizing they both want to be something more than who they are expected to be in the duet "Fly Away With Me."

While the protagonists are on their adventures in the city, the King, enlists the help of two cats he finds in the subway, Nugget and Lola, in capturing Princess Eliza as seen in "Here, Kitty, Kitty." Here, the scenic carpenters have created a mobile, rolling subway car to mimic a real subway station. In capturing Eliza, the King aims to marry her and remain a king in this new world, but, in the bar scene, she gets drunkenly upset with Levi and runs out before the cats can capture her. Because of Eliza's absence, the cats make a diversion to capture Princess Penelope instead by calling the police, reporting a disturbance at the bar. As the sirens sound, the background flashes in the blue and red colors associated with police cars, and the officers arrest the characters in the bar.

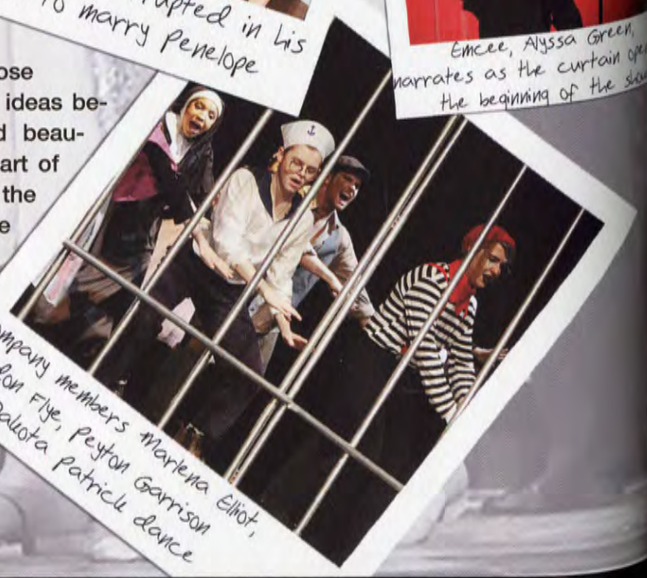
Once in jail, Mother Superior is quickly bailed out. Eliza arrives at the jail where her friends are imprisoned, and the group number "Jailhouse Rhythm" commences, during which the choreography takes the cast through the cell bars and across the stage. At the song's close, reality snaps back in, and the characters are still trapped. Eliza knocks out the officer standing guard and frees her friends. Meanwhile, the fiendish cats bring Penelope and the nun to the King to begin the wedding (although Mother Superior protests that nuns cannot officiate weddings). The other characters interrupt the nuptials and capture the cats and the King. The musical concludes with the song "We're Heading Home," as Levi and Eliza decide to stay in the exciting city with each other, while Penelope asks Huck to return home to her kingdom as the other characters return to their respective lands.

Claire Quirk, Choreographer of the past two shows and Princess Eliza this year, said, "The best part is definitely seeing your work on bodies, on stage, in costumes, under lights. It's mind blowing to remember how those moves started out... Seeing the ideas become something cohesive and beautiful is breathtaking. The best part of performing in the production is the rush. There is no audience more enthusiastic, engaged, or supportive in the world. It is truly awe-inspiring. To walk out onto a stage and hear the screams of friends, family, and strangers that all want to see you succeed is an adrenaline rush that I wouldn't trade for the world." Quirk also wanted to give a "special thank you to Mary Grace Tracy, Heath Moore, Tori Blackburn, and Tori Irvin for all of their hard work. After three weeks of seven hours a day, seven days a week, you really get to know each other and look out for one another."

Likewise, Chance Majewski, playing the cowboy Levi, emphasizes the magnitude of a production put on by "full-time students who were crazy enough to spend hours every day in rehearsal trying to create a musical in a month...The sheer intensity of the process is something that brought us together, and the support we freely gave each other was incredible. I was definitely out of my comfort zone, but I also got to spend a lot of time with some really cool people." Majewski also wanted "thank all the Purples—cast, cabinet, or otherwise—who take the time to play the game and support each other every year" with specific thanks to Leslie Smith and Illyssa Overton. Smith "was in charge of Cow Tails, all of whom were a great support not only to the cast, but to all of Purple Side whenever they were needed," and Overton "was the Stage Manager for the show, whose work seemed extensive and thankless" which had no impact on her "great spirit throughout the whole process."

The King is interrupted in his plans to marry Penelope

Emcee, Alyssa Green, narrates as the curtain opens the beginning of the show



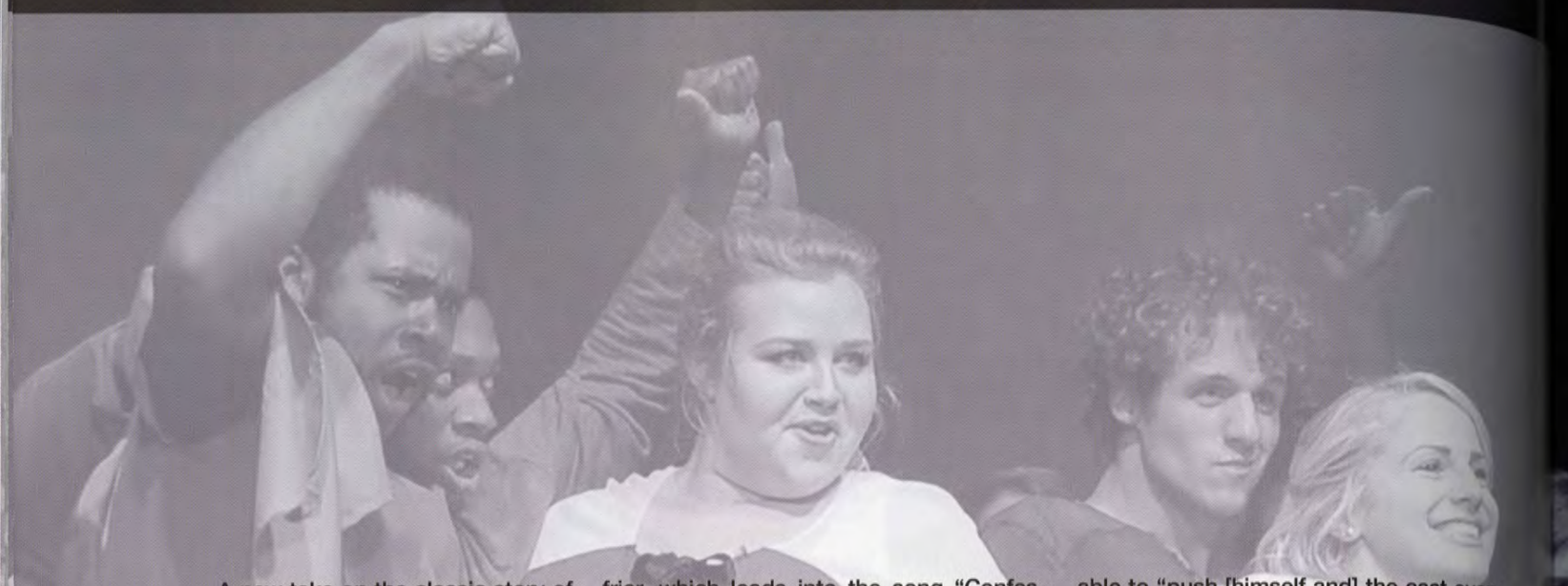
Company members Marlena Elliot, Landon Frye, Peyton Garrison and Dakota Patrick dance

Feline siblings Nugget and Lola are played by Michael Loman and Madison Johnson

Claire Quirk, starring as Princess Eliza, performs in the finale wearing her "I love NY" shirt, representing her decision to stay in New York, in contrast to the characters who return to their original worlds.

Levi tricks the King by masquerading as Eliza in order to save Penelope

Gold Victory Show



A new take on the classic story of Robin Hood, "A Very Notti Musical" utilizes its cast to reintroduce the story from a new perspective. The production opens to display a hand-painted background of rolling hills and buildings, featuring a church with a stained glass window, and the set consisting of stone buildings and a well. The characters enter adorned by hand-made costumes, individually created piece by piece for each cast member from recycled clothing. In this adaptation, Robin Hood is not the hero of the tale, but is an arrogant, selfish, lying womanizer. As such, Robin is unfaithful to Maid Marian, but admired as a hero by the people of Nottingham as seen in "Hero's Prologue." While this personal drama is unfolding for the audience, the scene shifts to a political conflict with Prince John and the Sheriff discussing taxation.

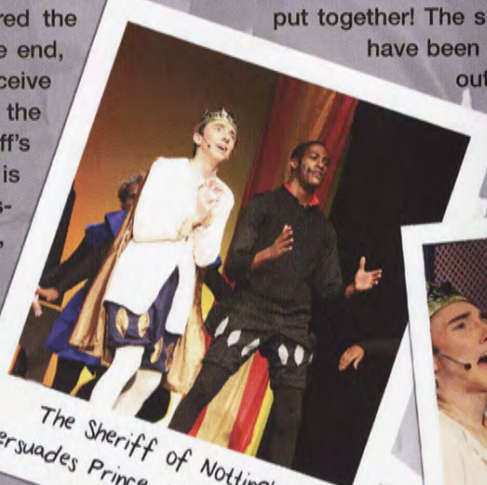
The Sheriff convinces the easily-manipulated prince to raise the taxes for his own personal gain without telling Prince John his actual intent. Maid Marian, Lady Rosalind, Lady Eleanor, and Lady Marigold go back to the castle where Prince John tells them of his new tax plan. Upset by this news, Marian sets out to find Robin and tell him of her new discovery.

The prince leaves for the church happy with this taxation plan. Looking for Robin, Marian is already in the church when the prince enters to make his confession to Friar Tuck. Inside the church, the audience is faced with an impressive, hand-made stained glass window, which was foreshadowed in the opening scene's background. In an effort to conceal herself, Marian hides in the confessional, and is mistaken for the friar, which leads into the song "Confessions" where Prince John confesses his sins and mentions his taxation plan to her instead. Marian then continues trying to find Robin Hood to rally the people to revolt.

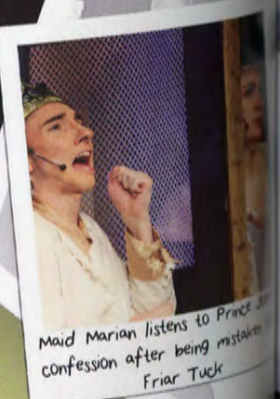
Upon confronting the prince, it becomes clear that the naïve man only had his people's interest at heart and the Sheriff was behind it all. While Robin Hood is the initial concept of the hero, Maid Marian is recognized as the brains behind the operation, and is thus offered the job of the new sheriff. In the end, the people of Nottingham receive a new tax plan that benefits the majority, in lieu of the Sheriff's corrupt taxation plan. Robin is also confronted with the possibility of changing his ways, but this is never confirmed.

Hannah Bell, Gold Side Stage Manager, "enjoyed making relationships with the cast, as well as the crew, and other members of the cabinet, because [she] was seeing them almost every night." Despite the immense workload and the high stress, Bell said she "would make the sacrifice again and again for what [her side gave her] in return."

Senior Gold Alex Belli works as Director, Light Designer, and actor playing Prince John. Facing the conflict of directing while acting, Belli is still able to "push [himself and] the cast everyday to discover something new and watch each new idea come to life right in front of [him]." He wants to thank his "very helpful Secretary Emily Gabhart" and the writer, his "fantastic assistant Ryan Howard." Belli adds that "the most rewarding part was getting to watch the show come to life, then finally getting to see the full production with lights, costumes, and the beautiful set! It was just so incredible to see what all these extremely talented people helped put together! The show would not have been the same without each and everyone who was involved."

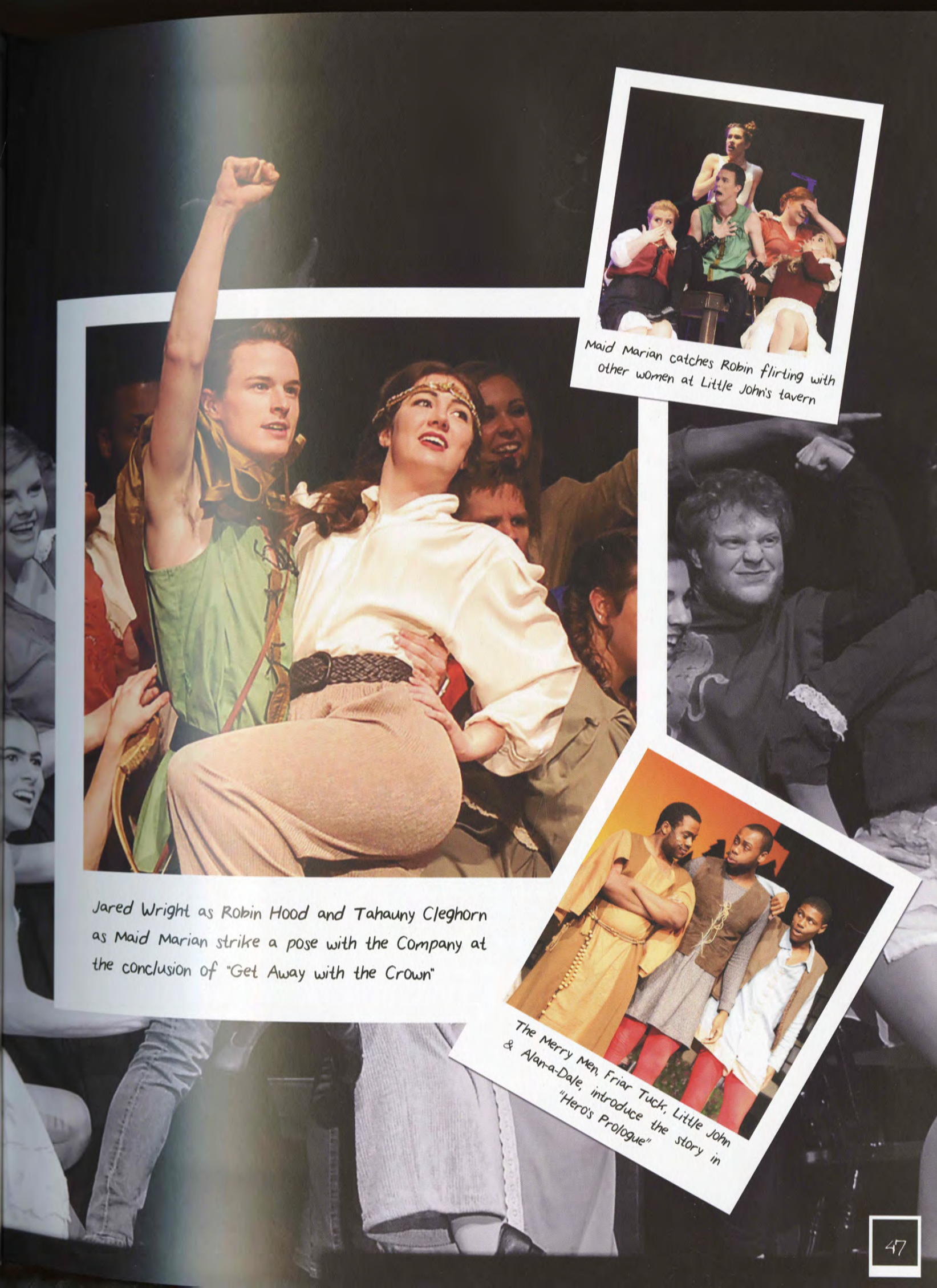


The Sheriff of Nottingham persuades Prince John to raise taxes



Maid Marian listens to Prince J... confession after being mistaken... Friar Tuck

The citizens of Nottingham rejoice at the return of Robin in "Back in the 'Ham"



Maid Marian catches Robin flirting with other women at Little John's tavern

Jared Wright as Robin Hood and Tahauny Cleghorn as Maid Marian strike a pose with the Company at the conclusion of "Get Away with the Crown"

The Merry Men, Friar Tuck, Little John & Alan-a-Dale, introduce the story in "Hero's Prologue"

Photo credits: Katie Compton

The winner of College Night is determined by the points earned in Pre-Production and Production. After the productions have both concluded in the final showing, the SGA President, Hunter Huie announces the winner by repeating the winning side's phrase that is woven into his speech. Both sides gather on the stage, Purple on stage right and Gold on stage left, anxiously awaiting the recitation of their specific phrase. The Purple phrase is, "The journey is the reward," and the Gold phrase is, "**We're gonna fight and take back our town**," which is the phrase that is repeated.

Upon hearing the Gold Side's words, everyone on the stage and in the audience bursts into a roar of screams, both of disappointment and pride. Through blurry, tear-filled eyes, both sides hug their members and opponents, to console and congratulate. Their long hours of work and stress and no sleep are over and worth it no matter who has won. After all of this, the sides take their turns circling up again to allow their leaders to reflect on the outcome. The Purple circle, maintaining its closed circuit, echoes that the score is irrelevant and the Purples' efforts will always be the true victory; it is filled with the hopeful inspiration of another year to come, another opportunity to seal a PV. The Gold circle, with its hole, is filled with cheers, appreciation, and promises of another GV, as reflected in their traditional cheer of "GV2" to count their consecutive wins and look forward to the next; this is the first time of 2017 that "GV2" is cheered. As if both sides were holding a weight on their shoulders for months, the participants can find peace at the closure of a truly trying, yet utterly amazing experience.

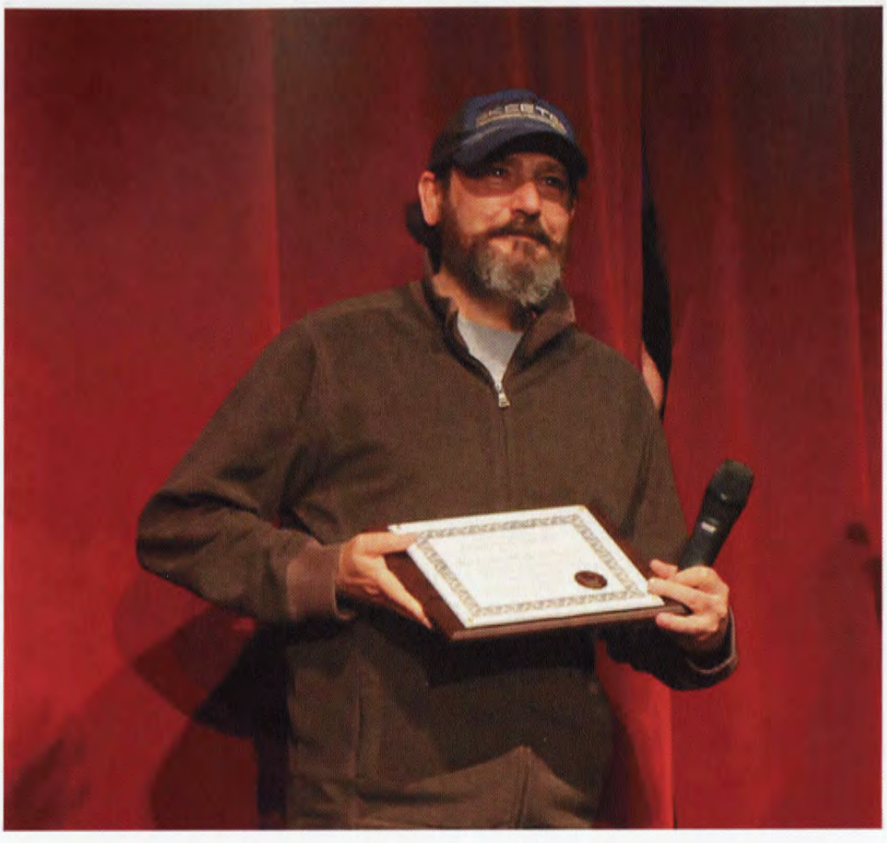
The University of Montevallo unites as one entity again, as the College Night festivities have come to a close.

The Sunday Strike occurs after College Night has ended, and the competitors come together to take everything down. Gold Side Hannah Bell claims that aside from the victory, the Sunday Strike is the most rewarding part of College Night, saying "being able to take down the set and just be with all of those people I had worked so hard with for a month reminded me that everything we put on that stage was made by us. That we had gotten through this hard, hard process and come out on the other side sane (and with a good show if I do say so myself) was something I still feel very proud of. I always enjoy doing strike with the other side, it's just a reminder that, even though we've been in competition since the moment we got back to school, at the end of the day we are all comrades in this war we call sleep deprivation."

GOLD WINS!

	GOLD	PURPLE
Script	26/30	19/30
Lyrics	26/30	23/30
Score	22/30	24/30
Direction	28/30	19/30
Choreography	28/30	19/30
Acting	27/30	21/30
Singing	26/30	27/30
Dancing	27/30	24/30
Orchestra	23/30	24/30
Costumes	24/30	23/30
Set	23/30	22/30
Hair & Makeup	25/30	26/30
Props	12/15	11/15
Lighting Design	12/15	9/15
Running	29/30	23/30
Overall Effect	41/45	33/45
Timing	5/5	5/5
Production Subtotal	404/470	352/470
Preproduction Subtotal	124.75/166	150.5/166
TOTAL POINTS:	**528.75/636**	**502.5/636**

DEDICATION



Marcus Lane tears up on stage after being awarded the College Night Dedication

The Dedication is decided by a vote from the four side leaders (which was unanimous this year) and must be approved by both the SGA president and the College Night Committee. It is announced between the Gold and Purple shows on Friday night. This award is an extension of the student's gratitude to a person who is vital to the process for both sides; this year's recipient of the award is Marcus Lane, Associate Professor of Theatre, who teaches and has worked in movement, stage combat, acting, and directing. Recently, Lane has directed Godspell, DNA, The Rocky Horror Show, and God of Carnage for the University of Montevallo Theatre Department. The College Night leaders collectively decided this because of his patience, kindness, and helpful attitude within his role of performance editing and production feedback. Purple Leader Giselle Casadaban, remarks, "He gave us good advice, was genuine, and made all of us feel calm in stressful times."

A student of Lane's, Jesse Byron, says, "To me, Marcus Lane is almost like a parent away from home." From a scholarship interview, to classes, to shows, Byron claims, "He has become a close mentor who I look to for guidance as both an artist and just a young person looking for wisdom from someone who's been through and experienced a lot. Lane has poured so much into this school, the theatre, and the kids. A lot of us really are his kids to a certain degree. [As to why he won the award,] Marcus Lane cares on a much higher level than others."

Jen Lane, the university's own Adjunct Professor of Stage and Arts Management, reflects on the bond of her husband and his students, "[No matter the circumstances,] there will always be kids in [our] life. Our time at Montevallo has proven that to be so true. This man, my husband, pours everything into his students...he pushes, he teaches, he listens, he counsels. He's absolutely amazing. This award means so much to our entire family. Dean [Marcus' son] said, 'When Daddy got his award, I almost cried because I was so proud of him.' We all are, kid." All of the university is so grateful for the impact Lane has made and will continue to make; this Dedication's deserving recipient exemplifies the caring professor who goes beyond the job description to form bonds and change lives.

MR. AND MS. MONTEVALLO

Spencer Anglin
Ms. Montevallo 2017

David Pohler
Mr. Montevallo 2017

Mr. and Ms. Montevallo are two seniors who exemplify the essence of being a student at Montevallo. These students immerse themselves in the culture, activities, organizations, and fellow students that make up the University of Montevallo. Seniors that fill the requirements, such as campus and organization involvement, must apply in the fall with the signatures of ten fellow seniors who advocate for their application. After receiving all of the applications, a committee decided who should be chosen as the top five, which is later narrowed down to three in an OrgSync election.

On the Friday of College Night, the top three candidate for both Mr. and Ms. Montevallo are announced and welcomed to the stage of Palmer Auditorium between the shows. Next, SGA President Hunter Huie announces the winners of this honor for the audience, David Pohler and Spencer Anglin. The announcement process for Mr. and Ms. Montevallo is repeated for the remaining performance.

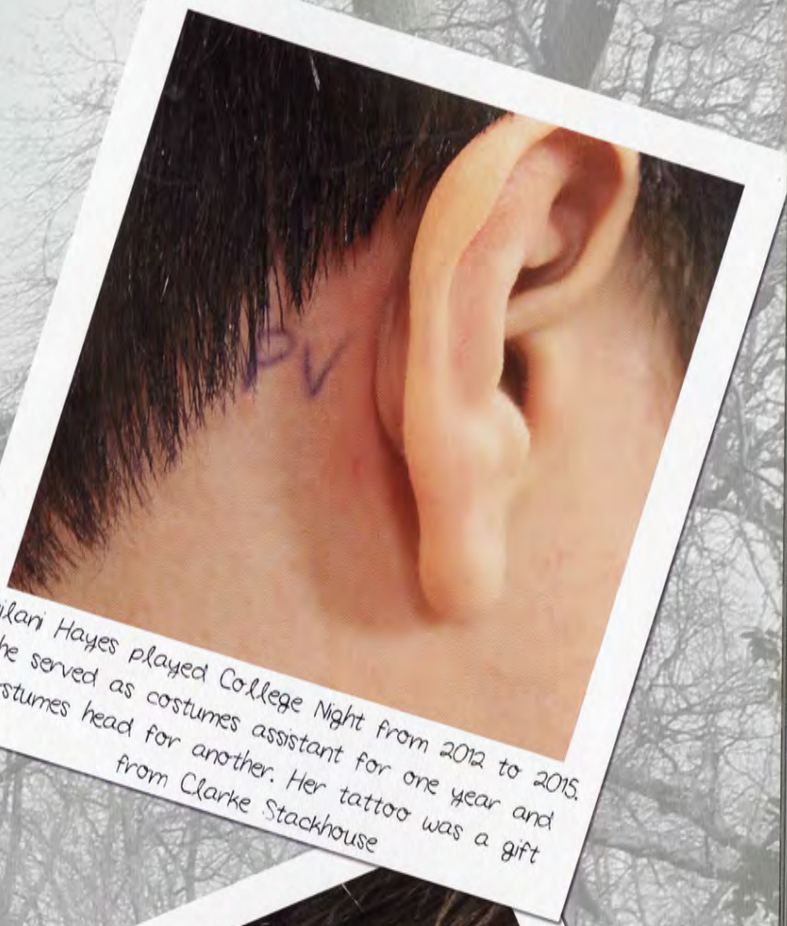
Mr. Montevallo, David Pohler, asserts, "It really means a lot. To be chosen as top five is an honor in itself—once top three was announced it was a pretty neat notion to know that it's all stemmed from votes cast by fellow classmates. That Friday night the feeling was electrifying." Likewise, Ms. Montevallo, Spencer Anglin, recollects, "It felt really great to win! I love everything about Montevallo and have been very involved on campus since my freshman year. Montevallo has given me so many opportunities that I wouldn't have gotten at any other school."

SPECIAL TRADITION

During the College Night preparations, the leaders use a marker or pen to write the corresponding "GV" behind their members' left ears or "PV" behind their right, a tradition that is over a decade old. If necessary, their cabinet members will also help in the marking. It stands as a visual reminder to both of the sides that College Night is bigger than them individually, they are part of the larger, amazing entity that is their side and the overall competition of College Night itself. The victory letters originated in the belief that they would symbolically block out the opposing side's cheering, keeping the players inspired during all of their hard work preparing and practicing. The letters are an outward symbol to people both on and off campus during the College Night season.

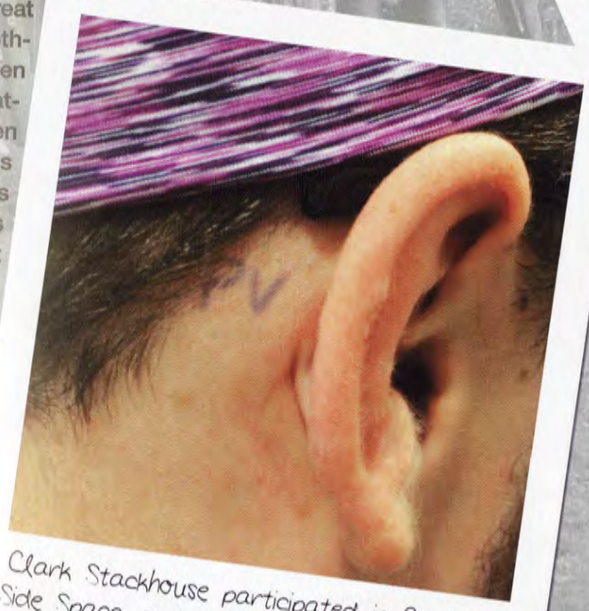
The most devout of College Night participants have a tradition of their own to have these initials tattooed behind their ears, which puts them into the timeline of College Night forever. It is a constant reminder of the hard work, dedication, and relationships that they forged while participating in the tradition. Rebecca White, Gold Graduate of December 2016, said, "I chose to get my tattoo because College Night as a whole is one of the most important things to happen in my life. It gave me some of the closest friends in my college years, it pushed me to grow as a creative person and in things like patience; it taught me many life lessons that I have carried into my life after college. College Night is also a common thread running through almost every person who attended Montevallo. Many times I will be in public when people see it and come running up to talk to me."

A Purple Graduate of December 2016, Clarke Stackhouse, says, "The tattoos are just a continuation of what happens while you are playing college night. It's really a personal choice on whether you want to make that commitment to your side permanent. It's very common to get them right before or right after your last year playing college night. It's kind of a way to say goodbye by permanently branding your allegiance to your side. Because no matter how long I've been 'past and forgotten with the rest' I have a small piece of Purple Side and Montevallo with me. I always knew I was going to get this tattoo. It was never a question. Purple Side was my everything to me and truly the reason I stayed at Montevallo. They are my family and I like putting things permanently on my body that fill me with joy and memories and nothing does that quite like College Night. My Purple Wife and I got them for each other as graduation gifts and so it was an extension even of the relationship Purple Side cultivated...It's also a great connection with other vintages when seeing their tattoo, because even though many of us get it, it still holds the uniqueness of a tattoo but something you share with hundreds of people! Purple Side till the day I day with my PV's raised high."

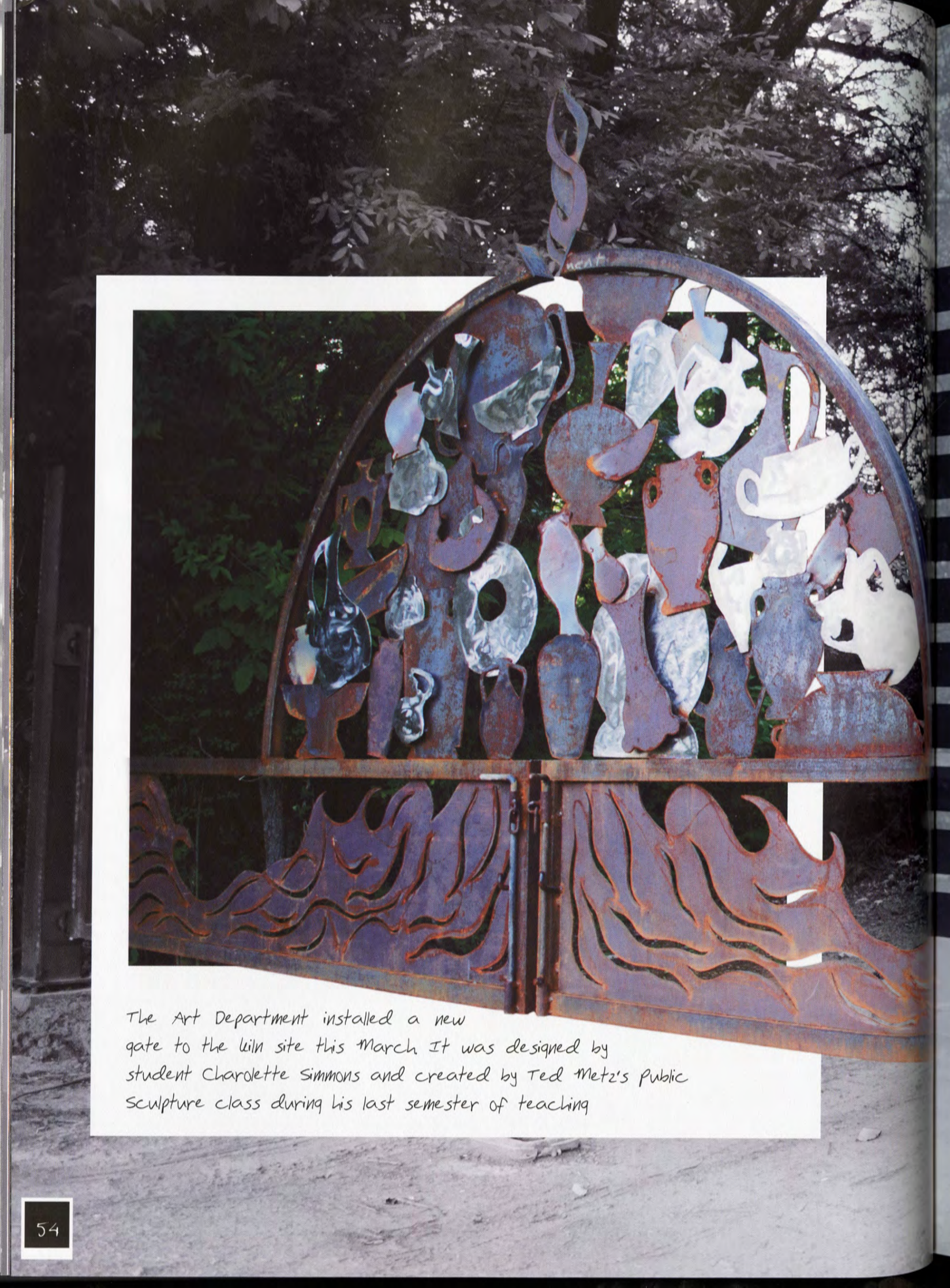


Leilani Hayes played College Night from 2012 to 2015. She served as costumes assistant for one year and costumes head for another. Her tattoo was a gift from Clarke Stackhouse

Rebecca White played College Night for four years. Her first year she was an assistant stage manager and the other three years she contributed her talents as the stage manager



Clark Stackhouse participated in Costumes, Side Space, and Spirit during College Night. His tattoo was a gift from Leilani Hayes



The Art Department installed a new gate to the kiln site this March. It was designed by student Charolette Simmons and created by Ted Metz's Public Sculpture class during his last semester of teaching

FINE ARTS

56-62	Art BFA Senior Gallery Shows
63	Professor & Guest Gallery Shows
64-65	Opera
66-71	Music Senior Recitals
72	University Chorus & Concert Choir
73	Jazz Band & Wind Ensemble
74-75	DNA
76-77	Heathers
78-79	Much Ado About Nothing
80-81	Godspell
82-83	Musical Theatre BFA Senior Showcase

BFA GALLERY SHOWS

The BFA exhibition is the final major milestone for students pursuing this degree. In order to accomplish the whole exhibit, they must of course create their art, but in addition develop and polish their Artist's Statements, coordinate their exhibits with others, and assemble their work within the gallery space of Bloch, all while under strict time constraints. This vital portion of the BFA program is a place of much stress and little sleep, yet also personal achievement and pride as these artists prepare to take the next step into their passion and to turn the page on their time here at UM.

Emalee Butler

"Out of Context"

Cadmium Red Interruption
Oil on Panel, 24"x48", 2016. Emalee Butler

When people think of landscape painting, they think of trees, rolling hills, color filled skies, and maybe a hint of the human presence. What began as an interest in depicting the world around me became an exploration of the idea of industry as an extension of the landscape, rather than an invasion of it. Instead of focusing on the "ugliness" of the man made world, and the damage it causes on the environment, I like to focus on its aesthetic beauty. In Out of Context, I explore the push and pull I feel in my work, the battle between two extremes, intrigue and repulsion. Why I am drawn in, and the moment I realize what I am looking at. The best way to examine the emotional effect this imagery has on me is to handle it objectively, or take it Out of Context. Why do I feel so intrigued by this kind of subject matter? Why do I connect plumes of smoke belching from factories with beauty? Why does a manmade structure intruding on the natural world, which I love so dearly, peak my curiosity? *"The rational mind says I should feel guilty for finding beauty in such monstrous objects, so associated with global warming they have come to represent a threat." --Conor Clarke*

Cadmium Orange Interaction
Triptych, 2016. Emalee Butler

Rorschach Red
Oil and Acrylic on Panel, 47"x47", 2016. Emalee Butler

Becca Maloy

"Gestures"

Before the existence of language, the human body spoke for the mind. Perhaps gestures reveal more about our inner truths, and how we actually feel, rather than spoken word. Through exploring archives of video footage and still imagery, I have discovered examples of how we communicate with our physical form on a regular basis. By isolating one small gesture at a time, while juxtaposed with modern reflections on body language in our society, we can see that gestures play an immense role in sociology. As human beings, we give out micro signals that say what we will not, which has a direct impact on our interpersonal relationships. I find it interesting to take a step back and observe how body language has developed over the ages. By displaying these pieces using obsolete, as well as new technology, I encourage the viewer to be reminded of time, and how these movements have evolved together throughout generations of technology. Ranging from old tube televisions to modern flat panel ones, smartphones, and digital prints, these forms of technology further the concept of relativity between time and gestures in society.

"I want to shape the TV screen canvas
as precisely as Leonardo,
as freely as Picasso,
as colorfully as Renoir,
as profoundly as Mondrian,
as violently as Pollock
and as lyrically as Jasper Johns." -Nam June Paik

FRAUD
Digital Print, 4x4', 2016. Becca Maloy

Gallery View
Electronics Installation, 2016. Becca Maloy

Ben Kaiser

"Tell Me a Story"

"Tell me a story." As a child, this phrase was commonly used to ask my mother to read to me. Each night, she narrated stories in vivid color until it was time for bed, leaving the tales to remain in my dreams. My time away from her made me look back to those tender moments. I began to be inspired to seek out more information about my childhood stories. Where did they originate, who else grew up listening to them, and what stories have I yet to hear?

Sun
MDF, 22"x30", 2016. Ben Kaiser

"Tell Me a Story" is based off classical and forgotten fairytales and folklore. My work focuses on these worldly narratives and retells them in a modern light, through symbolism and figurative expression. These stories were passed from word of mouth and spread across the ocean from port to port and country to country from sea trade and travel; each time changing a little bit. For centuries, children have grown up hearing these stories and have passed them down from generation to generation letting the words of the ancestors live on. Now that I am grown, I want to take part in this tradition. It's my turn to tell a story.

Gallery Overview
Narrative Triptych, 2016. Ben Kaiser

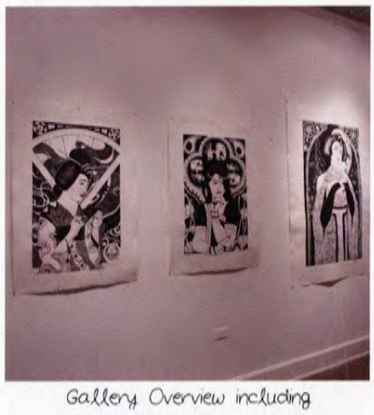
India
Resin Mixed Media Piece, 2016. Ben Kaiser

Victoria Naatz

"Universal Dreams"

"The beauty of the world lies in the diversity of its people."

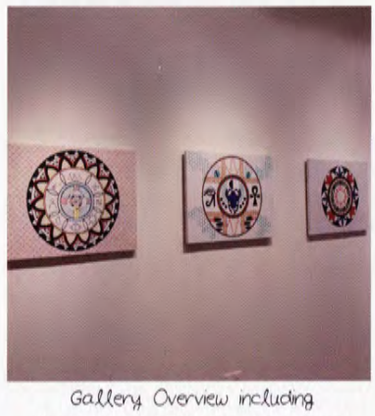
Countries and world cultures have fascinated me throughout my life. Growing up with my father, who is a social studies teacher and a history buff, greatly influenced my interest in learning about countries. I enjoy the cultures, religions, myths, and legends of different parts of the world. I am especially interested in their clothing, symbols, and artwork. I created the pieces in this show to reflect these cultural traditions, symbols, and clothing.



Gallery Overview including
Beyond the Moon and Stars
Triptych, 2016. Victoria Naatz

The mandalas in my show depict the patterns, geometric shapes, symbols, and colors that form the particular country's traditional clothing, culture, and typical color palette. Mandalas, originally from the Buddhist tradition, were used for meditation. They were spiritual and ritual symbols in the Indian culture. Mandalas depicted the universe and represented dreams and the dreamers search for completeness and unity.

In creating my prints, I mixed traditional clothing with futuristic themes relating to space and the universe. The prints have patterns and symbols unique to particular countries. The designs pertain to space, dreams, spirituality, or folklore. All of the prints have female figures in them for the sole purpose of representing the beauty and strength of each country. My pieces portray these women as strong, beautiful, graceful, and brave. They have dreams and rise above the adversity they face or differences in gender hierarchy in their society.



Gallery Overview including
Native American, Egypt & Germany
2016. Victoria Naatz

The mandalas and prints both show my love for intricate, detailed line work. In creating these pieces, I incorporated meaningful patterns, symbols, and colors to make each country's culture come alive and draw in those who view them.

Through this exhibit, I hope all who see my pieces will come away with the opinion that our world is full of unique and fascinating cultures and people. I would like them to appreciate the diversity and beauty of people, their traditions, and beliefs. Understanding and accepting can lead to a more peaceful world where all are free to dream of good things to come.

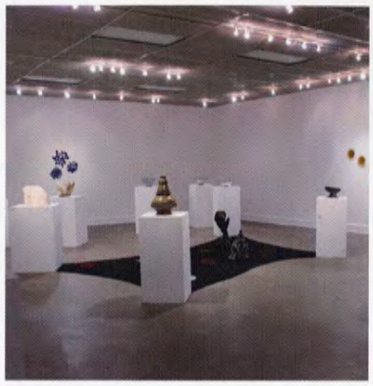
Japan
2016. Victoria Naatz

Photos courtesy of the UM Art Department.
All work is the property of the individual artists.

Mark Fields

"Heartbeats and Dreams"

"The two most important days in your life are the day your heart starts beating and the day you find out why" -Mark Twain



Overview of Installation
2016. Mark Fields

In the fall of 2011, after spending over 28 years of my life with the Air Force as a computer geek, I was burned-out, disillusioned, and desperately searching for the answer to why God put me on this earth. I had developed a strong interest in photography and wanted to explore that further, so I applied to the University of Montevallo to see if I had the makings of an artist.

Cheating Gravity
Cast Aluminum, 15"x8", 2015. Mark Fields

Although I started back to school to study photography, when I took my first ceramics class, I was hooked! I would sit in the studio for hours learning to control that spinning lump of clay! I knew the ceramics class was going to change the direction of my life, but I had no idea how much, for sitting across from me was the woman who became the love of my life. She not only taught me how to truly love, she opened my life to exploring the objects around me. She encouraged me to close my eyes and run my hands over a textured glass vase or a smooth metal bowl. She taught me how to see with my hands and appreciate surface. This lesson has influenced my work more than any other I've learned during my study of art.

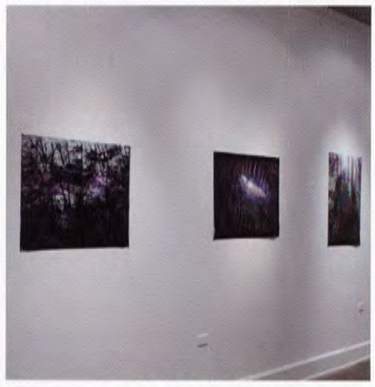
So why do I tell you all this? Because you can't understand my work without knowing what got me to this point. The inspiration for my work comes from my life! It's about letting go and taking chances. It's about being curious and asking "What if...?" It's about pushing beyond the limits of what we know and what we're comfortable with. It's a celebration of process and discovery! It's about loving what you're doing and living your dreams! If there's one question I could ask every high school and college student, it would be this: "Why does your heart beat?" Don't let someone else tell you what direction your life should follow. Find your passion and then find a way to make a living doing it! Listen to your heartbeat and follow *your* dreams!

Kelly Collins

"An Unsettling Feeling"

What is creepy? Do images of the dead and undead still scare us? What remains scary today that was frightening 50 years ago? Why? Is it something that has been driven into us through years of influence from different media? Why is it always a dark and stormy night?

In the movies, there's always rain when something sad happens, there's always a storm during dramatic moments. Fog is supposed to be spooky. What if we don't know the story, but we see these visual cues? Do we still feel a moment of uneasiness?



Gallery Overview
2016. Kelly Collins

The paradox of living death is also something that interests me. There is a mystery to death, ghost stories, and other supernatural ideas that I find fascinating. In my work, I seek to explore, although not necessarily to answer or to understand, these questions and these themes. This question of mystery interests me more than the answers to the question.

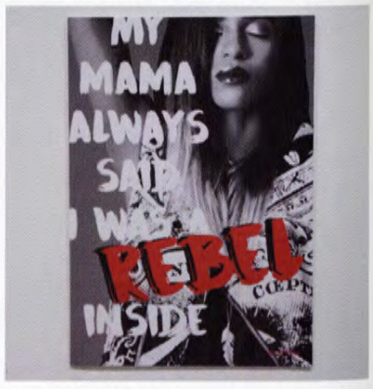
So, through the use of imagery of things traditionally considered creepy, I invite you to explore these themes with me. I don't necessarily want to scare, just to give you an unsettling feeling.

Print, 2016. Kelly Collins

Serena Manning

"Identity Crisis"

This is for me. This is for me, queer, black, female, and at odds with every facet of my identity. Trying to navigate a world that tells me my value comes only from what others can take from me. This is for every little black girl, for every black woman. For the mules of society who want to find their place and their voice, who want the world to see in them the magic they possess. This is for the women who inspire me, for the women who love me. This is for me loving my own damn self. This is for art. This is for the chance to speak up, a visual representation of my place in the universe. This is for me.

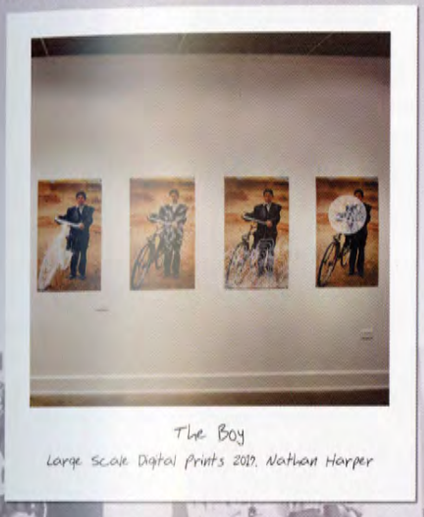


Black Synagogue
2016. Serena Manning

Nathan Harper

"Alighting Dust"

In my work I am interested in how humans exist as both physical realities and also conceptual beings. Names and categorical information are human constructs projected into a physical world so we can make sense of it. At the beginning of our life we are new to these patterns and find ourselves in a state of confusion and rapid learning. Unfortunately this experience seems to end later in life and we grow to dismiss and even avoid this state of mind. In my work I wish to get back to this state of ambiguity we experienced as children and view all of the implications no matter how uncomfortable and find beauty.



The Boy
Large Scale Digital Prints 2019. Nathan Harper

I create drawings and New Media based work that focus on this conceptual line between the physical and conceptual world. My drawings are an attempt at a form of meditation. Through a repetitive mark making practice, I am attempting to be engaged in the world as a physical being without projections to aid my activity. The drawings themselves become an artifact that the viewers project their own ideas onto.

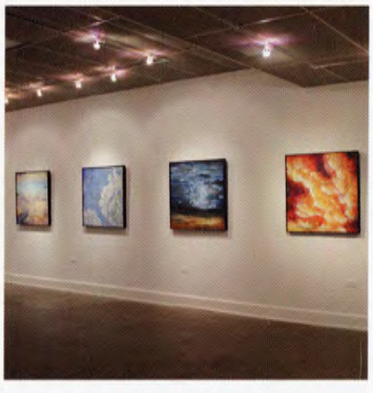
My animation work does similar things but I am attempting here to create a more immersive "non reality" and invite the viewers to engage in it. I want the meshes I use to employ similar marks to my drawings but also have no "real world" context. I want the viewers to be engaged in visual information with no explanations one can use to dismiss it. This makes the viewer like a child unable to fully understand but also unable to dismiss. I would want the experience to be like when one hears a foreign language and because they do not understand the symbolic meaning of the words the words are simply sound.

By playing with these various ways of seeing I am focusing on the thin line between the physical world and the conceptual world. This line between the objective and a subjective has everything to do with who we are as humans and is the focus of my work. It is both a celebration of beauty of the human mind and also making the viewer come to terms with their imperfect paradigm.

Belle Prosser

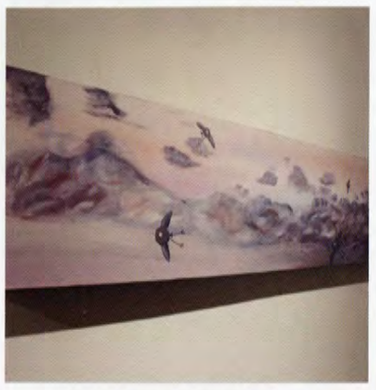
"The Inexplicable Essential"

My work is one way for me to make sense of my world. It is the tangible proof of my search for meaning in universally experienced places. Oil paint has become my tools of discovery. It enables me to give form to my questions, and it provides answers through the process that comes with each painting I make. This body of work celebrates the broad understanding I have gained about my relationship to painting throughout my undergraduate career.



Gallery Overview
2019. Belle Prosser

My goal with this exhibition is to create a transporting space for viewers. I hope that standing in front of a wall of celestial scenes will prove a catalyst for wonder. To create this space I focused on my own transformative experience with painting and by putting my focus on technique and process, and being flexible to my representation of subject matter, I allowed transformations to happen. I permitted the acts of blending, adding, subtracting, layering, hiding, and manipulating color to inform these works. I kept in mind the transitory nature of cloud formations and tried to give viewers a subjectively neutral space in which they can find personal discovery.



Collaborative piece, Oil on Paper 2019.
Belle Prosser & Maggie Jobe

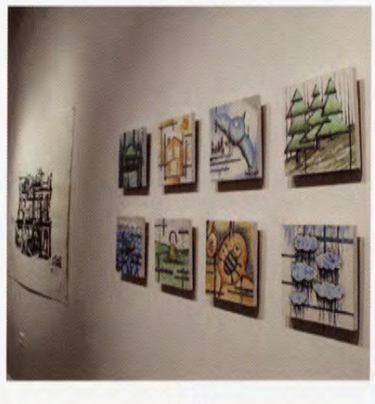
Maggie Jobe

"Common Ground"

When contemplating the idea of "common ground," we often through shared experiences and perceptions, search for a way to make connections. These connections create a balance or compromise that lead us to "common ground."

My use of imagery intertwining elements of nature and landscape along with depictions of various childhood symbols are intended to convey a playful yet altered connection from past to present. This applies to both experiences and to the act of creating a work of art... each evolving and each sharing a "common ground."

Additionally, the landscapes often offer a detailed depiction, yet hold a certain ambiguity so as to potentially provide viewers with a sense of unclear or false familiarity. The use of architectural structures serve as a reminder of human presence in the natural environment and act as "playgrounds" for the natural elements and the childlike imagery to interact. The childhood imagery function as symbols to evoke nostalgic feelings of childhood intended to again create a "common ground" representing my artistic journey and potentially creating a shared connection among each viewer and each piece.



Roots
Graphite & Watercolor on Paper 2019. Maggie Jobe

Photos courtesy of the UM Art Department.
All work is the property of the individual artists.

Mackensie Sandlin

"Flowerfall"

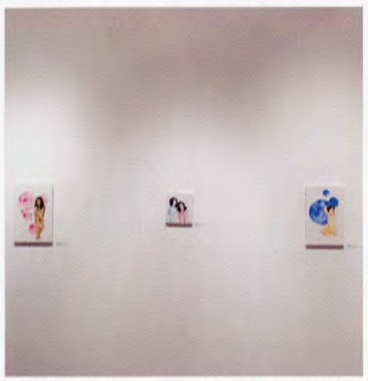
In life, everyone experiences a journey. From childhood on, the things we say and do directly influence others, whether for better or for worse. Our interactions with one another impact our own views of ourselves. No action or word is taken for granted, and even after we are gone, the effects of what we have done and said are still there. People often do not realize the impact they can have on a friend or a stranger. Closeness or anonymity is used to hide behind, but the words are real and can leave a lasting impact for years.

Fall
Ink & Watercolor 2017. Mackensie Sandlin

In my work, I want to show a theme of uplifting by others, but also the way we tear ourselves down. Flowerfall is a nonlinear narrative, a story of myself, of these characters I have created, and of the way they interact with others. For most, it is a positive interaction, and I want to show how a kind touch can mean more than one knows.

Echoes
Ink & Watercolor 2017. Mackensie Sandlin

Positivity and self-assuredness in oneself and one's interactions are made evident by the blooming of flowering, but the self-doubt we feel in appearance and actions is signaled by this black mass that starts to take over the figures, leaving them wondering who they are. Sometimes, it takes another person to let the other know that things will be alright.



Peach Rose, Three & Hydrangea
Ink & Watercolor 2017. Mackensie Sandlin

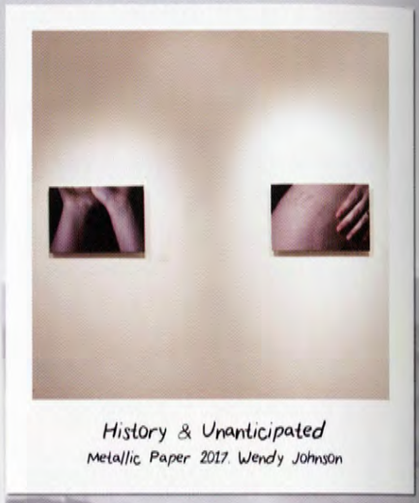
Wendy Johnson

"Convergence"

One common way for mental illness to manifest itself is through body image. Convergence can be seen two ways. The first way is starting from the pedestal working its way to the door. When seen that way, the narrative becomes present. Starting with the title piece, Convergence, she is cold and ashamed of her body. She shelters her chest from the world and digs her fingers into her legs in hopes of maintaining her defenses.

Convergence
Metallic Paper 2017. Wendy Johnson

As the viewer moves along the narrative, she becomes more open to the world and begins to care less about what people think of her. In the end piece, Ascension, she has a different defense up now, one that guards her from the harsh words of society. The narrative is very different when viewed from Ascension to Convergence. She is confident and proud at the start, but over time, the pressures of society weigh her down. It is important to view the work both ways. Society can rip the confidence out of anyone with no remorse, but people are strong and can build themselves up again. I have learned ways to be happy in my own skin and I hope my work shows others how to as well.



History & Unanticipated
Metallic Paper 2017. Wendy Johnson

My work embraces the idea of going beyond the body and into an internal space. With this work I emphasize emotional turmoil in relation to body image issues. The external body is often thought of as a wrapper, but this series shows the body as a reflection of what is inside the mind. Physical and mental issues converge on the skin and show what is normally hidden.

Perspective, Sentiment & Venus
Metallic Paper 2017. Wendy Johnson

Elizabeth Dufour
"What Goes On"

D.L.
Oil on Panel 2017. Elizabeth Dufour

In order for me to evaluate where I stand spiritually, physically, and emotionally, I choose to paint. Through the medium of painting I have found that I can express a fluidity that I could not while working with other mediums.

There is the aspect of tension in the idea that society can control how people see themselves. I show this strain in the backgrounds I place my figures in. The environment around them represents the turbulent mental atmosphere one may feel in regards to their own gender identity. Not everyone comes about who they are in a peaceful way. Many are victims of verbal and physical abuse because they have expressed their feelings about their gender identity.

In my work, I strive to give the viewer an unbiased approach into analyzing the physical appearance of the figure. The figure's back is turned to us, so as not to immediately identify them, and I also give few insights into the features they have that could be scrutinized due to our society's image of what a man or woman should look like. The tones I use neutralize the figure so that they are not too masculine or feminine, and I position them in such a way so as to not give away who they are or what gender they identify as.

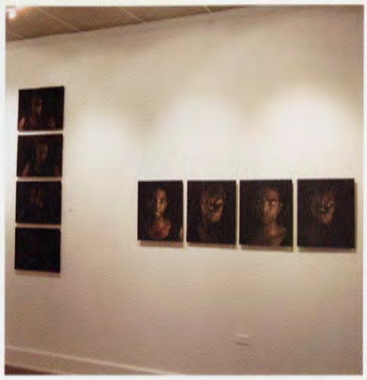
The intersections of a personality are very important to my work. We are all such a diverse group of people in this nation alone. My work is a small reflection on the city of Montevallo's intersectional citizens. I was introduced to the work of Luc Tuymens, Gerhard Richter, and also Michael Borremans earlier in my academic career. Luc Tuymens' work influenced me to observe people from a far off perspective, and to neutralize the image by means of color palette choices. Michael Borremans' figures possessed an eerie quality that inspired me to present the figure from behind. Additionally, Gerhard Richter's pulling and pushing of paint was inspiring to my work. The three artists really made me rethink why I was painting, and what I was doing to create an image that really meant something to me. I never saw my work as a profound object until I spent more time on these intersectional parts of what makes painting part of my own identity.

Mary Grace Tracy
"The Nature of Danger: A Field Guide"

The state of Alabama is one of the most biodiverse areas in the United States with more species of plants and animals than any other state east of the Mississippi river. While focus is turned to modern technology, expansion, and urbanization, important keystone species are being left behind, and unfortunately, becoming endangered. Instances such as highway construction near waterways, thousands of acres of commercial timber farms, installations of gas pipelines, and the use of herbicides are depleting our state's natural resources. This series of paintings was not created to shame humans on their destruction, but to shed light on the small and seemingly irrelevant species who are being affected by us. I present these works as a view through a scientific observational lens, highlighting the anatomy of beautiful organisms that occur outside of our built walls, and seeing our effect on these species.

Relict Trillium
Watercolor, Coffee & Acrylic Ink 2017.
Mary Grace Tracy

Simone McCall
"Anima/Animus"



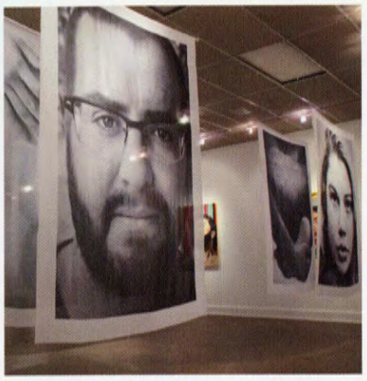
Dissociation & Confirmation
Photograph on Panel 2017. Simone McCall

"How you get work done is by exploiting yourself and your feelings, and sometimes people get in the way." —Carrie Mae Weems

Whether you are the one creating art or viewing art, we all see it as a way to escape. Sometimes it's a way to let your underlying feelings escape within a single piece. This series of images is exploring and revealing a person's inner self whether that part of you is more masculine or feminine. Within these images they are expressing themselves by revealing a part of their feelings and letting it be captured in order to reveal a simple honest and true part of themselves that they don't let others see. Each set of images reveals an emotion and how it's expressed throughout the body.

Photos courtesy of the UM Art Department.
All work is the property of the individual artists.

Katie Lanier
"Body of Light"



Gallery View of Installation
Print on Silk Fabric 2017, Katie Lanier

This is to beauty,
to the unseen,
to a new perspective,
to light molding the body,
to knowing your worth,
to be human is to be
a body of light.

Installation
Print on Silk Fabric 2017, Katie Lanier

Jonathan Evans
"A Millennial in Alabama"

Over It
Oil on Canvas 2017, Jonathan Evans

Any one person reaching young adulthood in the early part of the 21st century can be referred to as a millennial. Born in Florida and raised in Alabama, I have never lived outside of the Deep South. Intentionally using the term "Deep South," we can dissect the wildly negative stigma associated with the South, rooted in its history of racism, homophobia, general xenophobic and non-inclusive past, amongst many others. I firmly believe those criticisms and discussions have nothing but merit and are pivotal in the progression of the greater South into the 21st century. My work is rooted in portraiture and deals largely with scenes depicting human experience. My goal with the pieces in this show, "A Millennial in Alabama," is to highlight and showcase a new image of the South, through the eyes of a millennial homosexual starting his life in the early 21st century.

Zac & Adam
Oil on Canvas 2017, Jonathan Evans

PROFESSOR & GUEST GALLERY SHOWS

"Veiled"

Guest artist Aaron Benson specifically brings attention to the use of carbon in his work. He claims to employ it because of its "materiality" and "long-lasting, organic" properties. His use of materials contrast, because almost all of the pieces employ a hard, stone-like element versus a thin, organic, and more free-flowing element. Some hang directly on the wall, and others protruded into the gallery to hang, which has an interesting visual effect of the object being suspended in space. This decision separates it from a sculpture in the round and a two-dimensional wall piece, as it held certain aspects of both. This use of material and composition is reflected in the theme of "veiled."

"The only way I can truly understand is for me to make art," which correlates to the fact that Benson asserts, "this work is about [him]" and no one else. "Art needs more conversation," and to make this happen, Benson uses his personal beliefs to create something that will foster this conversation. He claims to have had the most success in art when he "[pulled] back" and "[got] back to basics," his faith and his belief in eternity. He likened his faith, the inspiration for "Veiled," to having never visited or personally experienced Japan, but seeing the evidence of it and trusting in its existence. There is a disconnect for him that he cannot overcome, but believes in despite this distance—this veil.

Tanner Young admires the work of Aaron Benson

"rifts, drifts, shifts, and myths"

Sculpture Professor Tanner Young produces a sculptural exhibit from found objects, wood, PVC pipe, bronze-castings, tape, and other materials. Many of his pieces suggest a skeletal form, yet others are more simplistic. Most have an aquatic theme, whether fish or boat or fluid related. As skeletons, the works are not so much unfinished, but, as he put it, "raw and honest" in their materials, reflecting the "beauty in imperfection."

lateral drift & storted, dead slack, and fine hair Installation 2017, Tanner Young

Young delves into his idea of the "crawl space" of the memory, especially with his sculpture that resembles a silo. It appears cylindrical from most angles in the space, yet is hollow and incomplete. Young relates this illusion to his memory of the silo by his home; he never saw any other angle but assumed it was rounded. This idea correlates to his ideas about memory and perception of the world; experience produces knowledge and, thus, assumptions, so what happens when these expectations are challenged? What happens when you finally peer around the silo, and it is not the cylinder you expected?

"Cuba Soul Deep"

Artists Julio Larramendi, Chip Cooper, Karen Graffeo & guests at the gallery opening

University of Montevallo's Professor of Art and Director of the Photography Concentration, Karen Graffeo presents her show with Chip Cooper, a photographer and professor for the University of Alabama, and Julio Larramendi, researcher and artist. The trio created the show to explicate the various perspectives of life in Cuba. Graffeo said, "Cuba opened its spirit and mystery to me… I made thousands of images and absorbed story, sky, sea salt, the smell of tobacco growing in hot dirt, and thrived on the way sound and humidity can penetrate mind and body… Each day that I am not there, I live larger through the strength and kindness of Cuban people."

Photos courtesy of the UM Art Department.
All work is the property of the individual artists.

Opera

Dr. Charles Wood stages and directs the "Evening of Opera Scenes," a series of performances from various operas. He does this in addition to being a voice teacher to some of the performers. The students featured in this event had to audition prior in order to make the cut, and they practice the specific songs suited to and picked for them. Senior Tucker Ratcliff reflects on his experience saying, "I enjoyed being on-stage with my fellow musician Justice Allen. We performed an unusually fast and comical duet that tested our musical ability!"

Some of the songs featured foreshadow the upcoming production of La Sonnambula. Following intermission is Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas," a complete short opera, depicting Queen Dido of Carthage's passion for Aeneas, the Trojan, until he leaves her, throwing Dido into utter despair. Laura Thomas recalls, "The three scenes I did are all from very different time periods—the 17th, 19th, and 20th centuries—and require slightly different vocal styles. I had to be able to change my sound very quickly since we performed them all in one evening." Thomas also spoke to how her timeless role in "Dido and Aeneas" connected her to other performers. "When you are trying to make a career in singing, you might perform with people from all over the world—so it's cool to think about the musical experiences you have in common with friends and colleagues."

La Sonnambula, or "The Sleepwalker," is a bel canto opera brought to UM by director Dr. Charles Wood, coach and pianist Dr. Laurie Middaugh, a student cast, and a band of alumni, students, and faculty. Oboe player Chris Evans took extra care to practice the challengingly fast pace of the music. Dr. Wood generally chooses very experienced instrumentalists, and this year he only chose three undergraduate students, including Evans who "was really impressed by the end result of both the cast and orchestra." Reflecting on the performance, he says, "I'm always excited to be asked to perform for the opera, because I love being a part of any kind of orchestra. It's what I want to do in the future... The experience is very rewarding for me, both personally and professionally."

La Sonnambula opens with Lisa (Melanie Thompson) and Elvino (Miles Jenkins), her former lover who is betrothed to Amina (Laura Thomas). Bothered by this news, Lisa ignores Alessio's (Justice Allen) profession of love for her, a near routine for them and invites strange newcomer Count Rodolpho (Jason McClure) to stay in her inn, warning him of a specter that haunts the area. The count takes note of the beautiful Amina, bids her an enthusiastic farewell, and angers the jealous Elvino who brought a notary (Jahleel Walker) to witness his pledge to Amina. Dreaming of Elvino, Amina sleepwalks into Count Rodolpho's room, who presumes her to be the rumored phantom. He flees, leaving her in his bed where she is found and judged as an adulteress. Elvino cancels the wedding and settles to marry Lisa, until Count Rodolpho enters to clear Amina's name, explaining that she is a somnambulist. Teresa (Logan Anthony), Amina's mother, exposes Lisa as a liar, yet the commotion ceases as Amina appears on the inn roof. Dreaming again, she professes her innocence, love for Elvino, and distress at his absence. He believes and forgives her, reaffirming their intent to wed, as she wakes up.

Melanie Thompson noted, "As a group, we really payed attention to each other on stage. We engaged in great action and reaction and helped each other if we got off of the music. It was a great experience, and I enjoyed being a part of it with all of my talented colleagues!" Likewise, Logan Anthony recalls, "Watching the seniors perform.. Knowing that it was their last performance as a Montevallo student was beautiful and emotional."

Lisa visits Count Rodolpho in the middle of the night

Amina mistakes Rodolpho for Elvino while she is sleepwalking

Elvino takes back the engagement ring from Amina

Elvino accuses Amina of cheating after she is found in Count Rodolpho's bedroom

Amina sleepwalks on the roof of the inn while singing about her love for Elvino

Rodolpho explains that Amina is a somnambulist

MUSIC SENIOR RECITALS

The Senior Recitals, in addition to half Junior Recitals, are required for students who are receiving the BM degree, the Bachelor's in Music with concentrations in Choral Education, Instrumental Education, Piano Performance, Vocal Performance, or Instrumental Performance (woodwinds, brass, percussion, guitar). These students are all classically trained in their specific concentration.

Gage Thomas

Percussion

The most rewarding part of Thomas' degree is "being able to make great connections and friends in the field of study that I love." Like most music majors, Thomas had to adjust to the demanding requirements, saying, "This degree really showed me how to time manage my personal and professional life."

Life brought Thomas to UM, despite not being his first choice, and he says, "I'm so glad that ended up here. The teachers really care about us, my friends are the best, and I have been able to have opportunities that I never thought about having, such as being a part of a play and playing in the Opera."

Rochelle Brace

French Horn

Photo courtesy of Rochelle Brace

The most rewarding aspect of Brace's experiences performing has been "being able to see children's faces light up when they play or sing." Despite the high demands on a music students, Brace asserts, "Being a musician is hard work, but in the end it's all worth it" because "I'll be able to do what I love most."

Photo courtesy of Rochelle Brace

Matt Suddarth
Saxophone

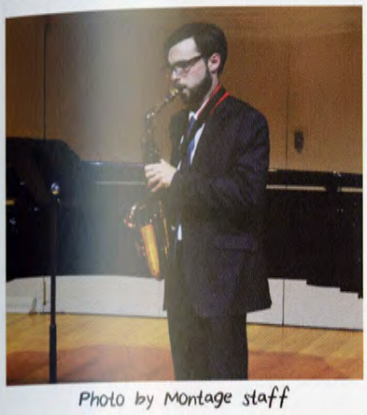


Photo by Montage staff

Matt Suddarth, a BM Instrumental Music Education student of Dr. Lori Ardovino, is a member of Wind Ensemble, Saxophone Choir, Saxophone Quartet, Jazz Band, and University Chorus. In addition, he is the composer for the Purple Side and the music director for Montevallo Presbyterian. He is concentrating in Instrumental Music Education for his Bachelor's of Music. For his Senior Recital, Suddarth played two duets on the soprano saxophone and one on the alto saxophone, both in tandem with Laurie Middaugh on piano; the others were solo pieces on the alto saxophone. He began playing the alto saxophone six years ago with "Euegene Bozza's Aria," the third piece of his Senior Recital. Naturally, having this experience come full circle had Suddarth "feeling sentimental" and nostalgic at his last college recital in LeBaron Auditorium.

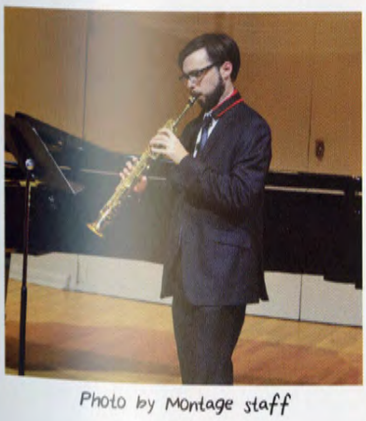


Photo by Montage staff

Suddarth's fingers danced quickly and smoothly across his saxophone. He continuously swayed as he played, his movements mirroring those of the music he produced. He paused only to turn the pages and return his hand to the instrument. His enthusiastic performance was echoed by a standing applause to which he returned a bow. Matt graciously thanked his professors and Dr. Ardovino for the past three years and met his spectators in the reception that followed.

Alec Lee
Trombone

"Music Education majors have so many things they have to juggle at the same time, so the biggest challenge I face is time management. From simple written school work, to practicing for our lessons and performances, to field observations, to actual performances, finding a balance for all of these was pretty hard starting out." However, all of the hard work will be worth it when Lee is able to teach after his education. "Music changed my life, so getting the opportunity to teach it to growing students is the opportunity of a lifetime.

"UM is my home and I am so very thankful for all the wonderful experiences I got to have here and all the amazing people I got to meet here. While I was nervous for my performance all the way until I stepped out on stage, I was still excited to share the music I love so much with the people I have come to love here."

Alexandra Raper
Mezzo-Soprano Vocalist

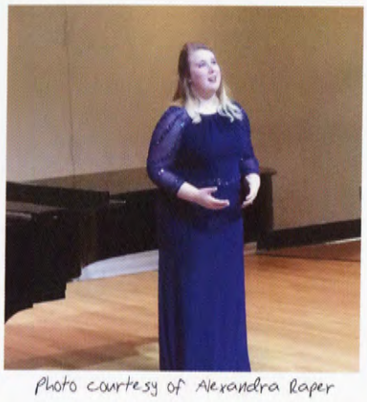


Photo courtesy of Alexandra Raper

"Acquiring any type of music degree is filled with obstacles. People underestimate how difficult music theory and even performing can be, but those were the challenges I loved. My recital was one of my favorite challenges in my degree" during which she sang "a range of classical music."

Photo courtesy of Alexandra Raper

Raper also appreciates "all the opportunities [she had] to perform (which were usually required for the degree)," saying she "was very lucky to not only perform as a soloist but also in the choir and several operas."

Rachel Pickering
Soprano Vocalist

Photo courtesy of Rachel Pickering

"Being a music major [specifically a BM in Vocal Performance] is hard work, but I think if you love what you do, you learn from your mistakes and stick with it no matter what. I have faced many challenges, and I've had many ups and downs, but they have all taught me many things about myself that I think I needed to know. Many of those things I'm still trying to implement and process." Pickering believes, "The most rewarding part of this degree is getting to develop my talent under amazing faculty, and learning more about my voice and how I would like to use it."

Photo courtesy of Rachel Pickering

Laura Thomas

Soprano Vocalist

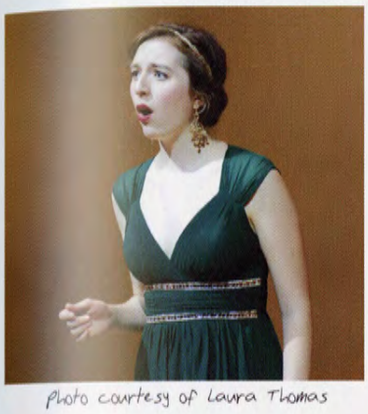


Photo courtesy of Laura Thomas

"Before my recital, I think I was just ready to get on with it. I had prepared for so long—some of the songs I had been working on for years! So I was just ready to get onstage and share that music with everyone who was there. Also, some of the people in the audience were friends hearing me sing for the first time, so it was really fun to be able to share this part of my life with them. Afterward, I felt happy and proud... but also really, really relieved to have it over with. Putting together a recital is a lot of work!"

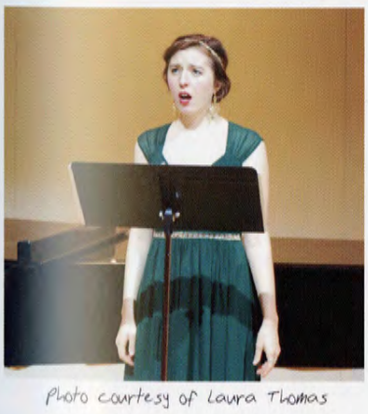


Photo courtesy of Laura Thomas

BM in Vocal Performance, Thomas says, "I'm always on the hunt for new rep[ertoire material]. Some of these pieces I found just by searching for work by composers I liked or by researching a specific genre... As singers we need to know a lot of background information about our music, like composers' biographies and translations of foreign texts. That helps you give a more expressive performance. I do most of that research on the internet. Then, to memorize pieces, I like to write the text out over and over again. That's in addition to a lot of hours spent singing in the practice room, of course!"

Reflecting on her experience as a music major at UM, Thomas recalls, "One of my favorite things about majoring in music here is how accessible and helpful all the faculty is. Usually all student voice recitals are accompanied by piano, but I had some pieces that called for other instruments (harpsichord and guitar). Dr. Faulkner and Dr. Goldspiel were happy to play for me, even though it's beyond their "call of duty," so to speak. It was so kind of them to agree to do that. I'm really grateful for how much the faculty is willing to do for students here." Thomas is planning to attend Boston University for graduate school for music this fall.

Alex Lesueur

Baritone Vocalist

"I think the most rewarding part of this degree is being able to see my personal musical ability grow through the years and to see my friends grow as well. It's amazing to see all of these people go from beginners to professional musicians." As with most music majors, Lesueur agrees that "the biggest challenge of the degree is time management. The degree is really demanding, so balancing all of the classes with all of the required practice is difficult." That being said, "It was a great experience, and I would do it again in heartbeat."

Photo courtesy of Jason McClure

Jason McClure

Baritone Vocalist

"Most of my singing experience comes from Jazz/Opera/Art song. We take weekly lessons here at Montevallo for all four years, working with incrementally more complex music... Recitals themselves require a lot of work. When you make yourself so vulnerable on stage—trying to represent the most vulnerable parts of being human—it can be pretty evident if you haven't prepared. I didn't want that to be me, so I just practiced over and over and over.

"Pursuing performance showed me composition, which I had never considered I could/would do, but I've gotten really into writing music. I would never have known this was a part of me if I hadn't gone through years of music theory, if I hadn't been so engrossed in all this for so long... Years of professors lending a helping ear, the music office loaning me the occasional paperclip, friends who were willing to help when I needed it and give me space when I needed that...I am the one who earned my degree, but I am made of the people who care about me."

Reflecting on the "chaotic" nature of the fine arts' demands in addition to school, McClure says, "Maintaining a decent GPA along with my own peace of mind was difficult with the demands of a fine arts major. Music hours meet usually twice or three times as long as they are credited for, and they all require massive amounts of your free time for practice. This doesn't leave a lot of room to hear yourself think, much less deal with core classes, getting enough sleep/food, and the occasional minefield of red tape that often comes with late payments or lost paperwork. Being a music major is hard, but it's so rewarding if you can make human connections with the people around you. The degree itself is very difficult and won't do you any favors, but there was always someone in Davis to help me when I felt conquered by the demands of this fancy piece of paper."

Margaret Marie Brewer

Mezzo-Soprano Vocalist

Photo courtesy of Marie Brewer

"The most rewarding part of my degree is the smooth transition of all the discipline and work ethic I've obtained from college into my other lines of work, alongside my musical career, in the present. As a BM vocal major, I faced many challenges that almost all voice majors will face: practicing late nights, early 8:00 AM classes, challenging sight singing tests (they only make you stronger), eating 10 minute lunches, singing in all the ensembles because you love it that much, and then more practicing till you sleep and repeat. All these things and more were totally worth it looking back and moving forward." Brewer adds, "I experienced making best friends that I will be friends with for life, and I gained more opportunities as a soloist and opera ensemble member than I ever thought was possible. (Thank you, Dr. Wood and Dr. George!) I couldn't be more thankful for the music education I received at UM!"

Samantha Anselmo

Soprano Vocalist

Anselmo recalls, "Stage fright and time management were probably my biggest obstacles going into college, but I have learned how to funnel that fear and frustration into determinacy to master my art." Her experience at UM has also allowed for Anselmo to gain great memories such as "touring Europe with Concert Choir" where they "sang in cathedrals in Budapest, castles in Prague, celebrated life with the mayor of a Czech town called Hodonin, and walked through the home of Mozart in Vienna."

When reflecting on the most rewarding part of her degree, Anselmo says, "[It] is not only being able to share my experience through performance, but also fostering creative growth and expression in others' experiences through music education. Music is a language that anyone can communicate in where creativity and love sprout roots... I have been submerged into countless diverse cultures where I've gotten to explore my roots and experience others" through music.

UNIVERSITY CHORUS & CONCERT CHOIR

University Chorus maintained their breath control while producing a stunning resonance during their spring concert

Concert Choir's spring tour at Snead State Community College

Concert Choir's collaboration with Highland Consort

Montevallo's University Chorus, meeting thrice a week, is open to anyone. Despite these class periods, many of the members practice on their own to prepare. The University Chorus, colloquially known as "UCho," performs one concert per semester in addition to their fall participation in the "Festival of Voices." The festival extends a chance for middle and high school students to sing in a group, similar to an honor choir, at the university.

Hannah Mummert joined the University Chorus to "stay involved with music" despite her major outside of the discipline. In order to balance out the dispersion of ranges, Mummert also has to sing as an alto for the University Chorus despite her usual soprano range. The music itself is challenging, as it includes Mozart's entire Coronation Mass in Latin, which Dr. Doyle remarks is likely the most difficult piece the University Choir has performed. "Learning that on alto was pretty hard, but it was also rewarding—especially because I got the chance to sing the alto solos in a really awesome quartet of three other fabulous singers... This semester, singing what we consider 'a complete work' by one of the most famous composers with a small orchestra of violins, oboes, and a harpsichord is really the best experience I've had in my semesters with UCho. I've made a lot of friends, and I absolutely love Dr. Doyle. They keep me coming back every semester. I think that's really the most rewarding thing. Not just the performance, but the experiences along the way to the performance."

Singers who wish to be in the Concert Choir must audition for a spot. The Concert Choir practices four days a week, yet individual group members are responsible for learning and rehearsing their parts in practice rooms or with other group members. Active across Alabama, but especially near Birmingham, the Concert Choir performs around five times every semester in addition to their Spring Recruiting Tour, in which the choir visits various high schools to perform, inspire, and recruit new members. This week-long tour alone encompasses nearly twenty performances.

Struck by the Concert Choir's performance during her first visit to UM, Calliope Pettis "was amazed by the nuanced level of communication that took place between the vocalists and their conductor, the fabulous Dr. Doyle." After participating this year, Pettis recollects the challenges that she and the group faced as singers saying, "What's unique about being a vocalist is that our instruments are an intrinsic part of who we are, so when someone asks us to 'play' it differently, it's almost as if they're asking us to 'be' a different person—instead of simply requesting that we make a change to our instrumental technique. Sometimes we get singled out and asked to alter a certain vocal articulation (vowel shape, tongue/jaw position, vibrato etc.) because one mismatched voice can really throw off the sound of the entire ensemble."

Artists who create in groups often struggle with their individuality and their concept of themselves as a component of something larger. Though Pettis recognizes this as a challenge, the payoff is well worth the effort. "The most rewarding part about Concert Choir is learning how to lay individual interpretations of the music aside and commit to Dr. Doyle's musical vision—if everyone shaped phrases and sang at whatever volume level they thought was appropriate, we wouldn't have been successful in our endeavors to sing beautiful music. In this way, choir has taught me a lot about the value of community building, and I hope to inspire others to create together the same way Dr. Doyle has inspired me." The Concert Choir both fosters individuality and personal aspirations while promoting the cooperation of the whole to create something beyond the mere individual.

Photos courtesy of: Dr. Melinda Doyle

JAZZ BAND & WIND ENSEMBLE

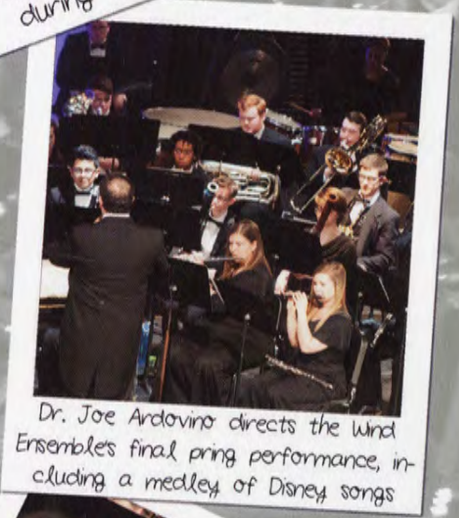
The Jazz Band, lead by Dr. Joe Ardovino the Director of Bands at UM meets twice weekly and performs at least twice per semester, more if they are invited to do so. In order to join this open ensemble, students must audition, proficiently performing with a jazz instrument. Presenting music from various eras and styles, the Jazz Band is an amazing learning opportunity as well as a great experience for all involved. The Jazz Band also has opportunities for call groups to perform at various events in addition to the entire band performing. The band itself has also been invited to perform for the community.

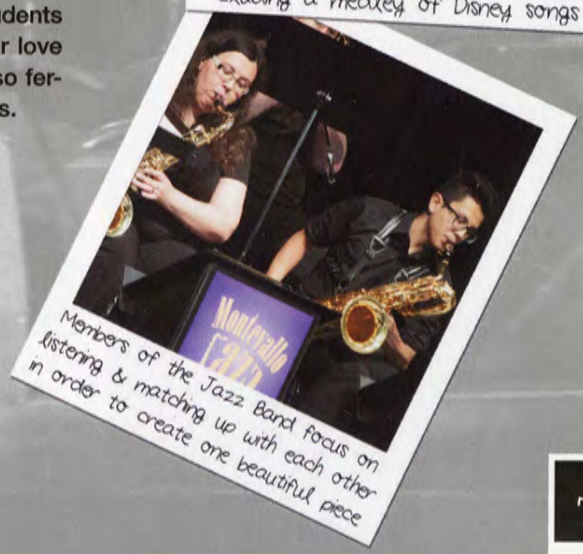
Member of the Jazz Band since the Fall of 2013, Taylor Kosman "joined because [he] has a very, very passionate interest in jazz music." Kosman, playing the saxophone, hopes to earn a Master's in Jazz Studies and to teach and perform professionally. The Jazz Band is a great experience for students like Kosman to build upon and use in the future. When reflecting on the highlight of his performances with the Jazz Band, Kosman says, "Being the first tenor sax player, there are a lot of opportunities to do improvised solos during our sets. Plus most composers and arrangers put together really awesome licks and parts for the saxophone section. There's so many things that you can do on saxophone; I personally like to squeal during my solos and play just plain unnecessarily high." Jazz in its essence gives its players a chance to explore this individuality of improvisation and style to create truly beautiful works of art.

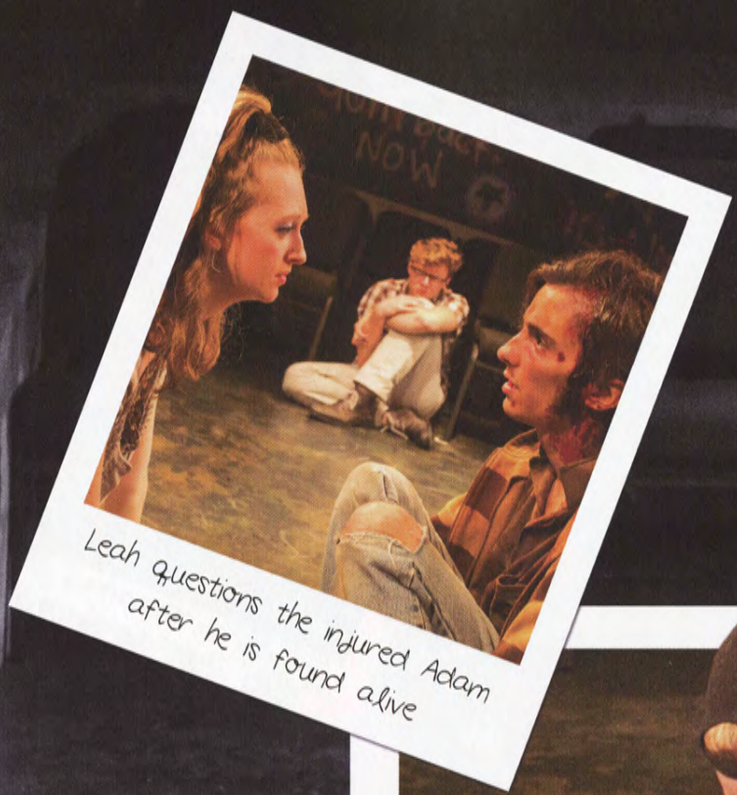
The Wind Ensemble is open to anyone who can play a wind instrument, no matter their degree. Also, directed by Dr. Joe Ardovino the band rehearses four times a week, performs two fall concerts and three spring concerts, completes a recruiting tour, and hosts the high school honor band in another attempt to recruit players. The Wind Ensemble performs an annual Christmas concert as one of their performances. In addition to all of their personal performances, the Wind Ensemble also plays for the Spring Graduation every year. Their final concert of this spring featured a compilation of famous Disney songs, a testament to the diversity of their music.

Some students join to stay connected to the music, the environment, and their passion for their instrument, and others join to complete their larger journey as a music major. Those who major in Music Performance must participate in the Wind Ensemble for eight semesters, yet those who follow the path of Music Education must complete seven semesters followed by an eighth semester teaching at a school. Music Performance major Mytchell Walker is currently in his sixth semester, well on his way in his degree. Walker notes, "Personally my favorite part about performing in the Wind Ensemble is learning new repertoire. Dr. Joe Ardovino does an outstanding job at choosing what pieces we play every semester, anywhere from large orchestral transcriptions to film music." This experience, no matter the reason or requirements, is enriching for all who participate; the students learn, improve, and expand upon their love of music along with peers who are also fervently pursuing their personal passions.

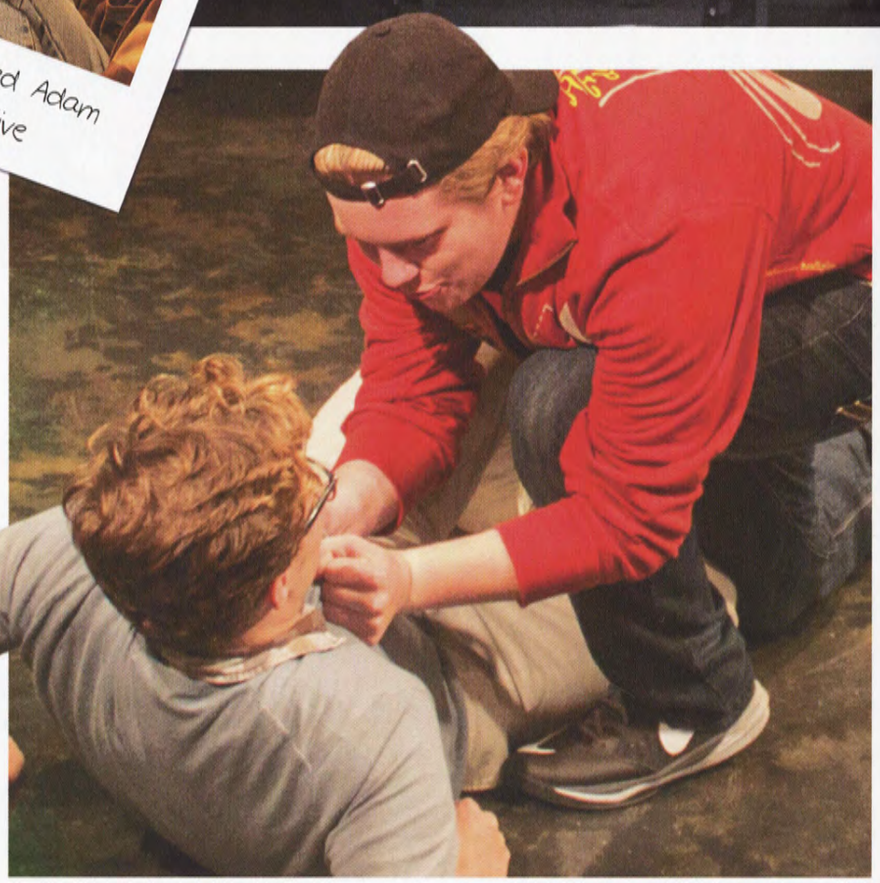
The rhythm section of the Jazz Band keeps the tempo moving during their performance



Dr. Joe Ardovino directs the Wind Ensemble's final spring performance, including a medley of Disney songs

Members of the Jazz Band focus on listening & matching up with each other in order to create one beautiful piece



Leah questions the injured Adam after he is found alive



Phil and Leah arrive to find John Tate threateningly asking Brian whose side he thinks he is on

DNA

DNA is this year's only play in the Chichester Theatre, also known as the "Chi Box," UM's black box theatre. It is much smaller than the upstairs Reynolds Theatre, putting the audience inside the space with the actors. This more intimate setting works well for the secretive nature of this play. *DNA* follows the story of a group of teenagers who kill one of their friends and subsequently have to cover it up. The play begins with Jan (Christina Yancy) and Mark (Androw Argote) pacing on a platform behind some of the audience as Mark explains to Jan that someone is dead, "like dead, dead." The next scene introduces the talkative Leah (Hannah Stephens) and the stoic, yet hungry, Phil (Elisha Taylor) who are recruited to help cover up the crime. They learn that Adam (Aaron Coleman) was balancing on a grille while the others looked on laughing and throwing things at him, causing him to lose his balance and fall into the deep, dark pit below.

After this explanation, John Tate (Robert Henshaw) asks Leah and Phil what they should do. For once she is left speechless; however, Phil takes action, formulating a plan to leave false clues to throw investigators off their trail. He instructs Danny (Jesse Byron), Cathy (Kelly Doherty), and Mark to steal a jacket from Adam's house, being careful not to touch it as that would be "a DNA nightmare." Lou (Kelly Nguyen) must take a pair of Adam's shoes and walk around in the woods. He sends Richard (Trevon Lee) and Brian (David Pohler) to report that they had seen a man in the woods, and makes up a description for them to give. Cathy and Mark are told to "accidently" drop the jacket in front of a random man so that he will pick it up and give it back to them, now covered in his DNA.

This plan runs smoothly until the police find a man matching their description, with DNA evidence. Cathy had taken it upon herself to find a man who looked like that to touch the jacket. Now, Brian must identify the man, condemning him, but he refuses. Phil steps up once again and threatens to kill Brian if he does not help. After they have gone through all this, to the point of framing a man for murder, Adam shows up alive, and they do not know what to do. Adam had survived the fall with a major head injury and amnesia and somehow found his way out of the pit; he had been living in the woods, eating grass and dead animals. In order to keep up their charade, Phil orders Cathy to kill Adam because "he's already dead."

After the performance, Kelly Nguyen remembers, "We mauled over the text to find any clues as to how the group communicated, what the status of each character was, and how that dynamic shifted. Because a lot of the play required a nonverbal form of communication between characters, it really helped to work with such a responsive cast... What resonates the most with me [from the play itself] is Leah's monologue about chimpanzees and bonobos. It was fascinating to realise that although we, as humans, can pride ourselves in being compassionate and empathic towards others like bonobos, but we're also capable of horrible violence similar to chimps. It was something we thought about a lot in relation to our characters as well as ourselves."

Appearing as a partial fulfillment of her BFA Acting Degree, Hannah Stephens recalls, "It was definitely a very challenging play to tackle. Most of the scenes I was involved in had only two actors, and my character was the only one speaking for 95% of the time. My scene partner and I had to truly rely on and trust each other for those scenes to really come to life. It took a lot of exploration and navigation through our characters' relationship before those scenes started to feel right and we could start to really play and honestly live in each moment. In the group scenes, we all faced the challenge of creating a true, realistic group dynamic. Because of the fast paced dialogue and the extreme stakes of the scenes, everyone in the cast had to be on the same page, and we all had to be tuned into each other. It was challenging to create honest reactions on stage each night, but those tough moments to work through were always the most impactful. We had to experience difficult things like loss and betrayal on stage each night, but through working through all of that together, I believe the actors and audiences all learned more about themselves."

Phil demonstrates how to suffocate Brian

Cathy listens as Mark and Jan explain what happened to Adam

Phil and Leah have a one sided conversation on their balcony

J.D. extolls the wonders of Slurpees to Veronica in "Freeze Your Brain"

Heather Chandler drinks her "wake up cup" of drainer fluid after a long night of ruining lives at the homecoming party

The school gathers together after the explosion to sing a reprise of "Seventeen"

HEATHERS

Heather McNamara laments that all her friends are dead in "Lifeboat"

Veronica shows off her makeover courtesy of the Heathers

Ram berates Martha for bringing non-alcoholic cider to his homecoming party

"*Heathers* teaches us that bullies never win, that there is always beauty to be found in the world, and that Slurpees are really, really bad for you," says Andrew Brown, senior actor playing Principal Gowan in *Heathers*.

Heathers is a dark comedy rock musical that confronts important issues within the lives of teens. The production follows Veronica Sawyer (Carrigan Smith) and her quest for popularity and acceptance. She joins a clique of the three most popular girls in school: Heather Chandler (Kendra Johnson), Heather Duke (Ashley Woodson), and Heather McNamara (Claire Quirk) thinking that life will be easier.

The new student Jason "J.D." Dean (Blake-Anthony Lovelace), catches Veronica's attention, telling her she's not like the Heathers. He also stands up to jocks Kurt Kelly (Jared Max Wright) and Ram Sweeney (Malik Van Hoozer-Elliott). Veronica runs into him again at a 7-Eleven on the way to Ram's homecoming party. In the song "Freeze Your Brain," J.D. says he takes refuge in 7-Elevens because he moves often, and they are the same in every city.

The homecoming party guests sing "Big Fun" while dancing and drinking. Martha (Emily Gabhart) shows up, thinking she has been invited, but is instead the victim of the Heathers' prank. A drunk Veronica sticks up for her against Heather Chandler, who she ends up puking on. Heather vows to ruin her life come Monday morning, so Veronica spends her night with J.D. in the song "Dead Girl Walking."

The next morning J.D. joins Veronica as she goes to apologize to Heather. Preparing her a Prairie Oyster, Veronica intends to spit a "phlegm globber" into the popular hangover cure. J.D. suggests instead drain cleaner served in an opaque cup that hides the bright blue color. Veronica dismisses this idea, but accidently grabs the toxic cup to give to Heather, who drinks the concoction and dies dramatically. J.D. convinces Veronica to forge Heather's handwriting in a suicide note to cover their accident. The song "The Me Inside of Me" shows how everyone at the school reacts to Heather's death as Ms. Fleming (Tahauny Cleghorn) passes out copies of it.

Ram and Kurt spread a rumor about Veronica that brings her to tears. J.D. wants to make them pay and formulates a "prank" to get back at them. He says they will knock them unconscious with "Ich Luge Bullets" to fake a "repressed homosexual suicide pact." Unfortunately, by the time Veronica realizes the bullets are real, Ram and Kurt are dead. The football players' new identities inspire their fathers (Michael Loman and Isaac Webster) to sing "My Dead Gay Son" at their funeral.

When J.D. sets his sights on Heather Duke, Veronica gives him an ultimatum: stop killing or lose their relationship. He caves, but is unable to keep his promise. After Veronica ends it, J.D. plans to blow up the entire school during a pep rally. He goes to Veronica's house trying to convince her to join him, but Veronica fakes her own suicide instead—accidentally scaring her parents (Giselle Casadaban and Josh Williams).

During a reprise of "Dead Girl Walking," Veronica goes to stop J.D. saying, "no one here deserves to die, except for me and the monster I created." She finds him in the boiler room setting the bomb, and they struggle with each other while a strobe light flashes. The fight ends as a gunshot goes off, J.D. falls, and Veronica removes the bomb to save her classmates. J.D. takes the bomb from her, saying she deserves to live, but he is damaged beyond repair. After the explosion, Veronica, a wheelchair-bound Martha, and Heather McNamara decide to "be seventeen" and watch a movie with a happy ending.

Portraying a "stoner chick," Ashley Stevens recalls, "Working with so many talented and dedicated individuals on *Heathers: The Musical* has been an amazing experience, and the material itself is so rich both musically and textually. This show gives us so much to unpack in regards to gun violence, bullying, heroism, vigilante justice, and more. I hope our performance inspires thought on each subject!"

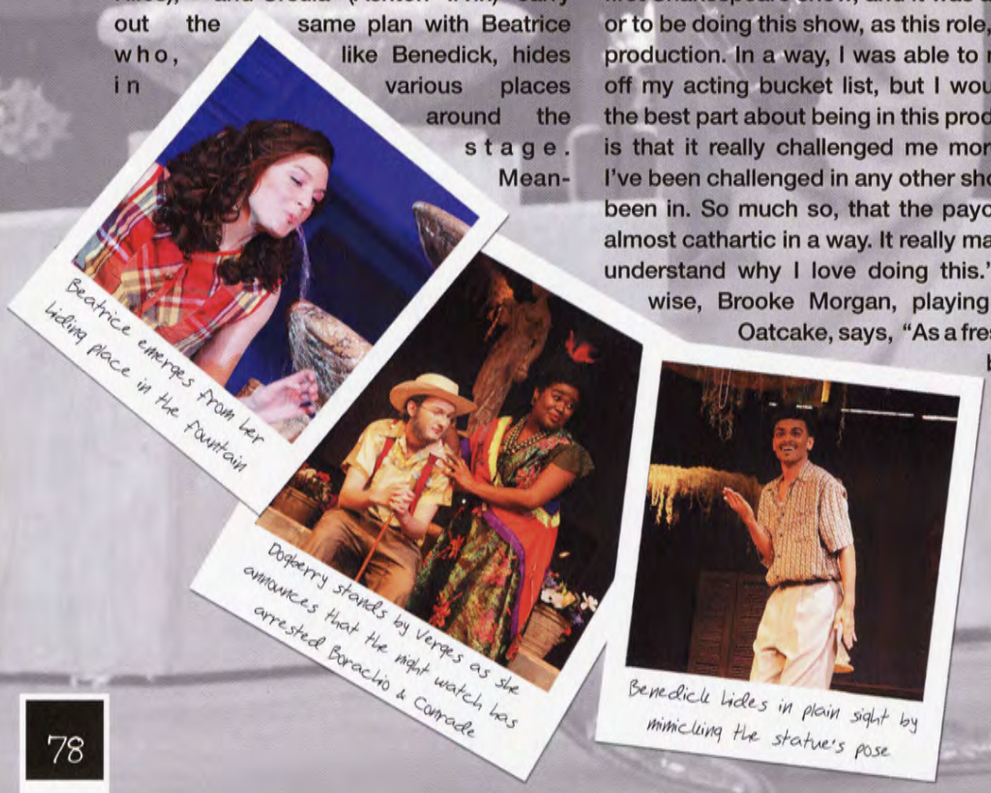
The musical also deals with murder, suicide, homophobia, and other social issues that are both real and evident in high schools everywhere, forcing the world to give these problems a platform for discussion in today's media. After his performance as Kurt's Dad, Big Bud Dean, and a teacher, Isaac Webster reflects on the experience with the production saying, "*Heathers: the Musical* is a very dark show with some hysterical moments, but I think it also has some really important lessons about groupthink and the dangers of cynicism. Songs like "Me Inside of Me" and "Dead Gay Son" force us to reexamine our own views of the value of an individual. I believe the overall message is one of hope."

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

William Shakespeare's comedy *Much Ado About Nothing* mocks gossip and miscommunications. The whole play emphasizes the much simpler life of just saying what one feels or thinks without causing undue drama with disguises, lies, tricks, or misrepresentations. Director Michael Walker's version of the Shakespearean classic takes place in 1940s New Orleans with Don Pedro, Claudio, Benedick, and Don John returning from World War II. The intrigue begins as Claudio (Ryan Orso) falls in love with Hero (Emily Perry) upon their arrival at the abode of her father Leonato (Josh Williams). Benedick (Malik Van Hoozer-Elliott) and Hero's cousin Beatrice (Hannah Bell), both confirmed bachelors, continuously trade witty banter. Don Pedro (Daniel Lewis) helps Claudio arrange to marry Hero at a masquerade party. Now that Hero is set to marry the next day, the characters decide to play matchmaker with Benedick and Beatrice. Don Pedro, Leonato, and Claudio discuss how much Beatrice loves Benedick, but is unable to show it, within his hearing; although he hides, they know he is there. Hero, Margaret (Labrina Riles), and Ursula (Ashton Irvin) carry out the same plan with Beatrice who, like Benedick, hides in various places around the stage. Meanwhile, Don John (Christina Yancy) hatches a plot of his own -- jealous of Claudio's success and happiness, he wants to ruin his marriage. He has Borachio (Taylor Coe) trick Claudio into believing that Hero is unfaithful to him. The next morning he leaves her at the altar in an embarrassing display, causing her to faint; her family decides to feign her death. Borachio's boasts about his injustice is overheard by the night watch, revealing the truth about Hero. The Master of the Watch, Dogberry (Amber Hayes), conducts a trial of Borachio and Conrade (Elisha Taylor). Leonato forces the guilty and ashamed Claudio to set the story straight for everyone who doubted Hero and marry his niece, Hero's cousin. This woman is actually just Hero in a disguise who reveals herself to a relieved and overjoyed Claudio. Overwhelmed with glee and an incessant need to argue, Benedick asks Beatrice to marry him. After fulfilling this need to bicker, she finally agrees, and the play concludes with a double wedding and full disclosure of all secrets and feelings hidden earlier.

Josh Williams says, "This was my first Shakespeare show, and it was an honor to be doing this show, as this role, in this production. In a way, I was able to mark it off my acting bucket list, but I would say the best part about being in this production is that it really challenged me more than I've been challenged in any other show I've been in. So much so, that the payoff was almost cathartic in a way. It really made me understand why I love doing this." Likewise, Brooke Morgan, playing Hugh Oatcake, says, "As a freshman being cast in a show, I was more than grateful and ready to give my everything, but I was also very scared—it being my first show with the department and being surrounded by so many fabulous and talented actors... It was being the best I could and working with everyone to make the show the best it could be. I really do believe the best part of *Much Ado About Nothing* was learning so much from the cast, the directors, everyone involved—and being able to work with them. It was a dream come true. In those few months of rehearsal, I learned so much about acting, about theatre, about life in general. It's beautiful. I can't wait to one day be able to do it all over again." Morgan recounts her favorite aspect of the experience, "The applause. The laughter. The reaction. The audience was the most rewarding thing—and the feeling that reeled through me whenever the audience clapped for us. It made everything worth it—the long practices, the strenuous times, the repetitions. I loved it—and I'd do it all again if I could."

Emily Perry recalls, "Prior to this experience, I never thought I would be able to memorize a Shakespearean play with such ease and be able to perform it. I was very pleased with myself! I think the biggest struggle for me was interpreting the text. I've read a few Shakespeare plays in the past, but it's still a little tricky to understand. Once we sat down as a cast and discussed the text, it all made sense... The cast was so talented and fun to work with! Everyone was so supportive and comfortable with one another. It got hard to yell at each other especially in the wedding scene when Ryan [Claudio] had to push my character several times. Ryan was really sweet about it though, and I trusted him not to actually hurt me. Also, the director, Michael Walker, was a blast to work with. He was ready to answer any questions and made sure we knew what we were saying. All around the whole experience was lovely and I'm so glad I was involved in such a wonderful production."

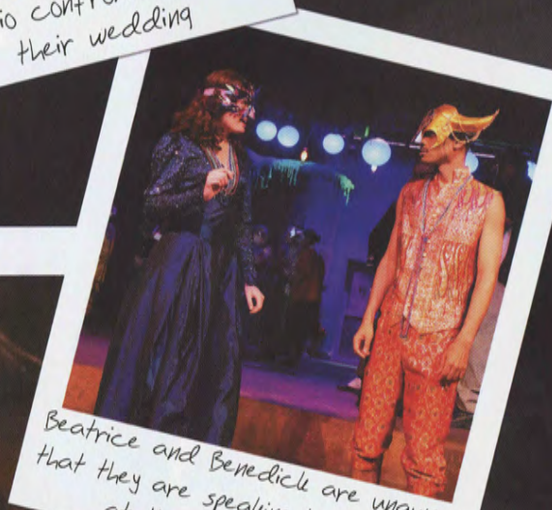


Beatrice emerges from her hiding place in the fountain

Dogberry stands by Verges as she announces that the night watch has arrested Borachio & Conrade

Benedick hides in plain sight by mimicking the statue's pose

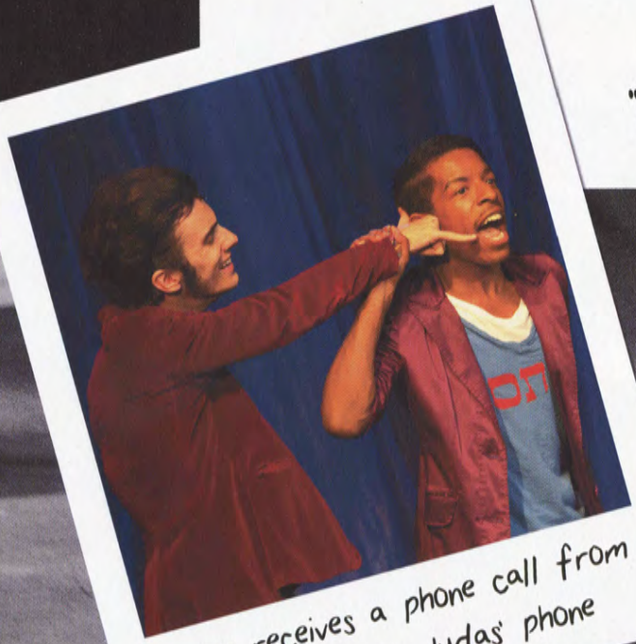
Claudio confronts Hero at their wedding



Beatrice and Benedick are unaware that they are speaking to each other at the masquerade ball

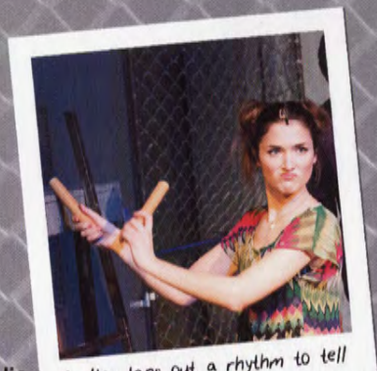
Leonato, Don Pedro & Cladio exaggerate Beatrice's affection for Benedick to trick him into loving her

Judas dances in "All for the Best"

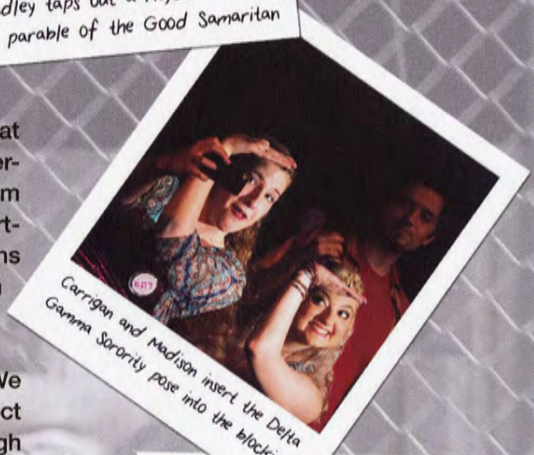


Jesus receives a phone call from his Father on Judas' phone

GODSPELL

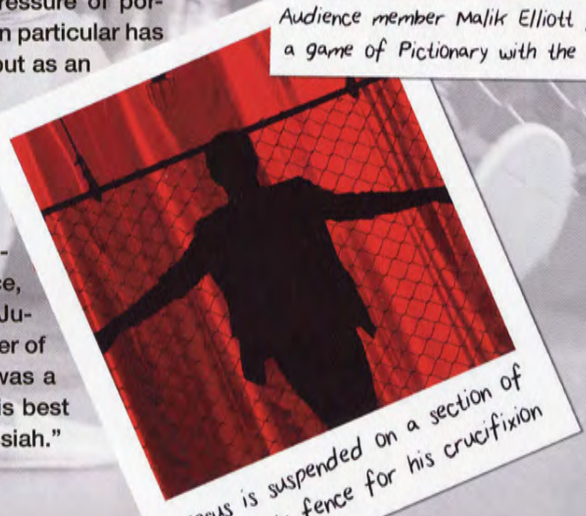


Cadley taps out a rhythm to tell the parable of the Good Samaritan



Carrigan and Madison insert the Delta Gamma Sorority pose into the blocking

Audience member Malik Elliott plays a game of Pictionary with the cast



Jesus is suspended on a section of chain link fence for his crucifixion

Composed by Stephen Schwartz, Godspell is a musical theater adaptation of St. Mark's gospel into the setting of modern-day New York City. The 2012 Revised Version includes several pop culture references that really help to get the audience invested. Michael Loman says, "Coming into the role at such short notice, I had to be prepared mentally on and off stage." Due to the limited time and rapidly approaching deadline, Loman recalls, "Stepping in to help shape others around me and allowing them to get serious with me. I knew that without that seriousness, the vulnerability of this show would not work...As a group, I would say we sometimes struggled to just give in and trust ourselves and each other but once we did, undeniable magic happened on that stage." Loman goes on to say, "Other than working with this amazing group of artists, the most rewarding part of the whole experience would have to be being able to connect with the audience on a more intimate level. I saw tears, laughter, and a change in some of their faces and knew that I was emoting, and that is all an actor could ask for. Also, being able to spread this message of love and acceptance to the children in the audience really touched me deeply (as I hope it touched them as well), and I will never forget it as long as I live. I am just so fortunate and grateful that I was chosen to help tell this story."

Throughout the first half of the production, Jesus (Michael Loman) tells various parables to move the story along, accompanied by modern music and the lyrics of traditional hymns. The story returns for the second half to recount the Agony in the Garden, Judas' (Aaron Coleman) betrayal, and Jesus' death. The "Finale" concludes with the reprise of "Long Live God" and "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" to imply His resurrection, completing the gospel story of Jesus. This play includes audience participation, such as a game of Pictionary at one point and charades at another. The actors must ad lib at different points; they include inside jokes from around campus and the theatre department. The ever changing dialogue means that each performance is unique. Aaron Coleman asserts, "The great overarching theme in Godspell is community, specifically building one from the ground up. We constructed that idea in the show, the effect of which proved to be infectious. Through the magic of the show itself, by the end of the run, I felt as though I had eight new good friends that I hadn't before... Through its devotion to theme as opposed to plot, the show becomes an experience that one must share, rather than present. The most rewarding part for me was that first contact with an actual audience. Building the community onstage is an incredible feeling, but inviting the audience to join in on it is an even better one."

Coleman has the pressure of portraying Judas Iscariot, who "in particular has a lot of negative baggage," but as an actor, "one just has to toss all of that extra stuff out and see the characters for what they are in the story." Coleman recollects his process of character development for his performance, "I went from understanding Judas as the foil and executioner of Jesus, to believing that he was a tragic figure, killing one of his best friends to give birth to a Messiah."

MUSICAL THEATRE BFA SHOWCASE

The BFA Musical Theatre Showcase is the capstone project for those seniors completing this degree. The students have the chance to research prior to this event, exploring the academic aspects of their degree to prepare for the performative portion. This research done throughout the entire semester is presented in writing and submitted to the theatre faculty after the showcase itself. These two aspects of the theatre student's education, academia and performance, form the culmination of the BFA degree as these seniors get ready to leave UM.

This year's BFA Musical Theatre Showcase featured seniors Kendra Johnson, Malik Van Hoozer-Elliott, Ashley Woodson, Jared Max Wright, and Tahauny Cleghorn; created by Director Craig D'Amico and Musical Director and Accompanist Jennifer Hartsell. It was centered around the individuals participating within it and their journeys throughout the years, as told through the various songs performed. The songs ranged from Sia's "Chandelier" to Natalie Weiss' "Quiet" to "Who I'd Be" from Shrek: The Musical to "Wait For It" from Hamilton to "My Friend" from The Life. The company opened the showcase with "I Feel So Much Spring" from A New Brain and concluded with their penultimate song "Raise You Up/Just Be" from Kinky Boots and their final song "Let the Sunshine In" from HAIR. Tahauny Cleghorn notes, "We chose the music to represent us, and worked with our director to ensure that it reflected us. Playing yourself is the most challenging role, and knowing that each of us did that successfully makes me believe that we can do anything necessary on this career path." Cleghorn recounts her feelings after the show saying, "I can't describe how I felt when I finished my project and concluded my final interview. The BFA degree track is by audition only, so even being admitted is a big deal, but the feeling of triumph that accompanied seeing our final grades go in that proved we had actually completed it—I've never been so relieved and elated. The challenging part was the extra rehearsals—in the final week of technical rehearsals before the showcase, we were juggling studying for finals, part time jobs, and involvement in other productions in addition to our rehearsals."

Despite their personal connection to the songs, the students did face the challenge of having a director that was out of state. While their director, Craig D'Amico, could advise and coach them through Skype, he was only able to visit one weekend aside from the actual performance. Kendra Johnson recalls, "It was stressful because we really couldn't see where the show was going until days before we were suppose to perform." However, once the day did come, everything came together perfectly. "For me to finally finish the BFA degree was life changing. Having the degree gave me validation that if I can make it this far then I can go anywhere I set my mind to go. The highlighting moment was when we completed the run of the show the last day of the performance. It felt as if we were completing our lives/journeys at Montevallo together. Truly we all would be taking different paths after graduation so it was very real for all of us, but it felt great, and I would do it all over again if I could."

Tahanny & Jared

Malik & Jared

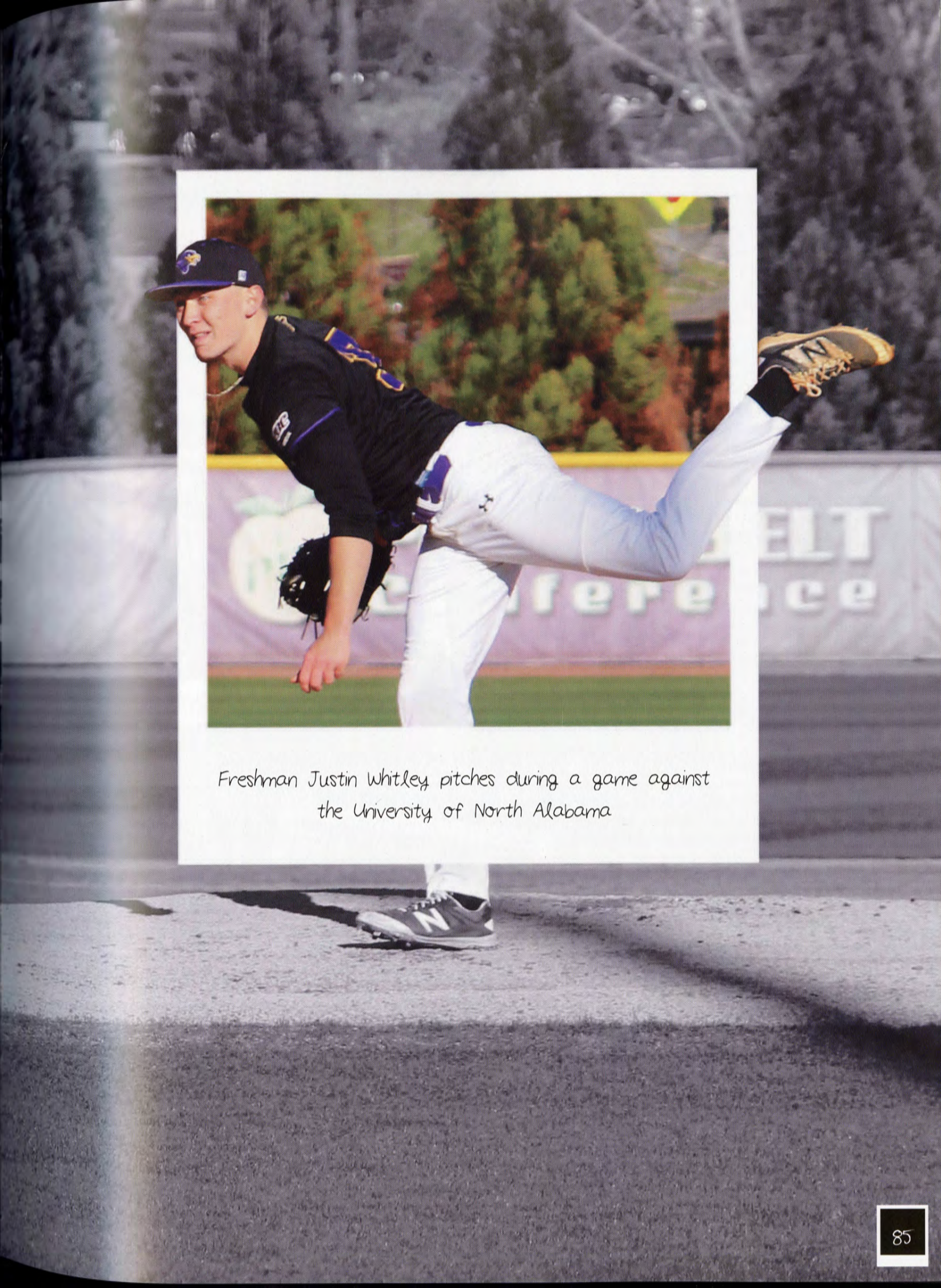
Malik & Ashley

Photo credit: Jared Max Wright

Photo credits: Megan Liveoak

ATHLETICS

86-87	Men's Baseball & Women's Softball
88-89	Men's & Women's Basketball
90-91	Competitive Cheer & Women's Lacrosse
92-93	Men's & Women's Cross Country
94-95	Men's & Women's Golf
96-97	Men's & Women's Soccer
98-99	Women's Tennis & Women's Volleyball
100-101	Men's & Women's Track and Field



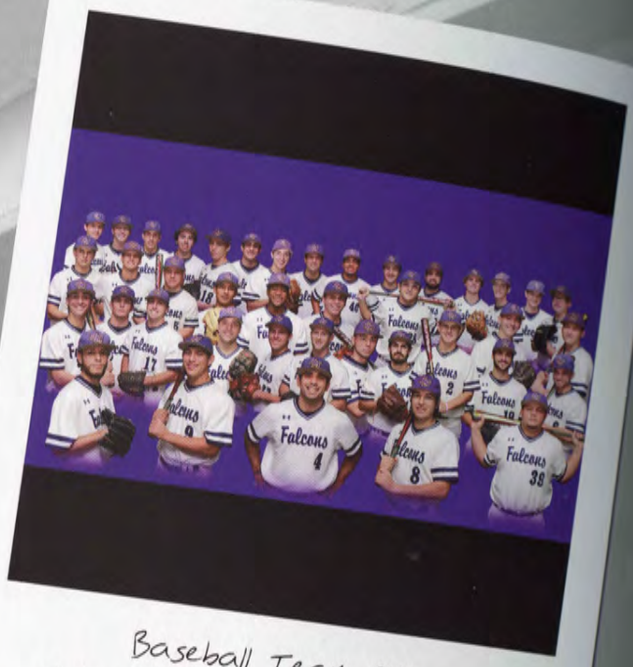
Freshman Justin Whitley pitches during a game against the University of North Alabama

BASEBALL

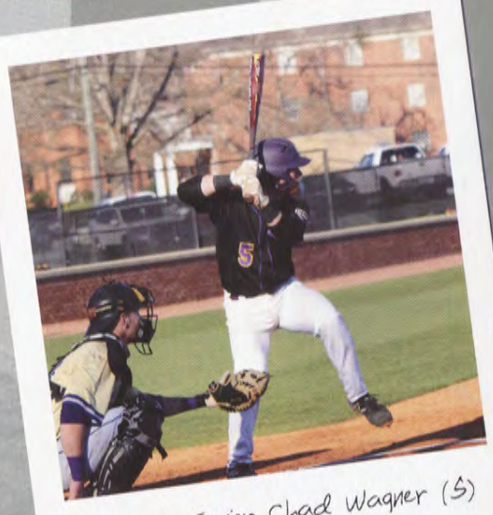
Pitcher Chris Piteo says, "Unfortunately, I was injured this season so I never got to step out on the field and compete. With that being said, there were a lot of things I was able to do off the field being a senior. My role quickly went from player to mentor for some of the younger guys on the team... We definitely dealt with a lot of adversity this year. We had some guys hurt and others that were ineligible to play. We needed a lot of young guys [to] step up, and they did." Piteo would tell future players, "Just say enjoy the moment... Sometimes, it won't sink in until it's senior day, and you're walking out there with your Mom and Dad, they're reading your stats out, and your whole team is out in front of the dugout cheering you on. Sometimes, you don't realize it until you take your final swing or throw your final pitch. I'll never forget the long bus trips, the (mostly) nice hotels, or the bullpen games we would play. Montevallo is a family, I enjoyed every last moment I got to spend with my teammates on that field, and I would go into battle for each and every one of them. Wear that Montevallo across your chest with pride and class and keep the tradition of excellence going."

Jacob Whiting, catcher, also addresses the difficulty of a team facing injuries, "We had a lot of freshmen come in and play everyday... We had players playing positions they had never played before in their career and [still performing] well." Whiting continues, "I think the highlight as a whole was our three game sweep of Columbus State when we had game-winning, walk-off hits in all three games, one being a home run. That being said we had many individual highlights, too... The advice I would give players is to be able to say at the end of their careers that they have no regrets or remorse because they knew they worked as hard as they could and did everything in their power to be as great of a player possible... I know I worked as hard as I could to be as good as I could, and I am pleased with my memories as a collegiate baseball player."

Lead by Head Coach Chandler Rose, Associate Head Coach Daniel Furuto, Assistant Coach and Recruiting Coordinator Ben Jackson, and Volunteer Assistant Coach Brad Moss, the Falcon Baseball team finishes the year with 25-23 overall.



Baseball Team 2017
Photo courtesy of montevallofalcons.com



At bat, Junior Chad Wagner (5) readies his swing

SOFTBALL

Prior to their game, the women listen to their music, each player satisfying her own needs to mentally prepare, and honor their pregame ritual of prayer together. Abbey Pratt, a sophomore pitcher, reflects on her individual role on the team, "Last year, we had 4-5 pitchers we could put in and get the job done. This year we have 3 pitchers, and we have a ton of innings to pitch... It may sound simple, but my job is to spin the ball and get outs." Pratt continues, "The highlight of the season for me is coming back to beat West Alabama 4-2 in the 7th inning. Everyone stepped up and performed. Our team fought hard until the end and we got our second win of the season. I was very proud of my team... Even though we have started a young line-up so far, our freshmen have stepped up big in the first 6 games of the season... Everyone has contributed to being in every game... This team is resilient and determined to do what is best for the team."

Jocelyn Nicole Rivera, a senior pitcher, recalls, "A highlight for me in general is seeing the team fight for every game no matter what the score... This team is very special. We never give up through any adverse situations we face. Compared to last year, our team chemistry is through the roof, and I think that shows on the field."

Lead by Head Coach Lindsay Vanover, Assistant Coach Alexa Peterson-Henderson, and Volunteer Assistant Coach Sydney Aguilar, the Falcon Softball team finishes the year with 23-23 overall.

Softball Team 2017

photo courtesy of montevallofalcons.com

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The men of the University of Montevallo's Basketball team are encouraged, especially by Coach Young, to uphold high standards of behavior both on and off of the court, including their academic and personal performances. In addition to their personal preparation, the players prepare for games by reviewing scouting reports, watching film, listening to music, and partnering up to practice together. Immediately before taking the floor, the basketball players come together for prayer.

Micah Fuller, freshman shooting guard, recalls, "The transition from high school to college was tough. There's a lot of things to learn, and you have to learn quick." However, Fuller's teammates helped to keep him pushing forward. He says, "This is the best group of seniors I've ever been around in my career of playing basketball."

Senior shooting guard and small forward Tazz Marbury acknowledges, "This year as a team we faced challenges with a few injuries to the team," but these did not deter the players or Marbury himself. He says, "The highlight of my season would have to be the Flagler game. It was my first start of the season, and I had 19 points, 9 rebounds in a big conference game."

Javonte Douglas, senior small forward, power forward, and recipient of the Bevo Award, says, "This is my first year playing with Montevallo, but being in college my role has changed. Now, I'm the go-to guy on this team... My teammates are great people and I love playing alongside them each night we take the floor. I wouldn't trade them for anyone."

Lead by Head Coach Danny Young and Assistant Coach Duncan Hudson, the Falcon Men's Basketball team finishes the year with 17-10 overall.

Men's Basketball Team 2016-2017
Photo courtesy of montevallofalcons.com

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The players get ready for their games by shooting around for an hour and analyzing their opposing team's scouting reports. Senior point guard Jazmine Stubblefield emphasizes the importance of "learning the other team's tendencies" in the reports. Stubblefield herself prepares by "shooting, listening to music, eating healthy, and understanding what the other team is going to do."

Stubblefield says, "The highlight of the season is when we played Tuskegee and we won in double overtime... Our team is a family. Even though our record isn't how we wanted it to be, we still work hard, and we still love each other."

Erykah Hall, a guard for the team, jokes about the team's closeness saying, "We literally died together during preseason..." She adds, "Everyone goes through challenges, like a losing streak or struggles between teammates. How we got through the challenges makes us have a better foundation as a team and family." Hall says, "[The best part of my experience has been] meeting some of my great friends and having a great support system in our coaching staff. Our bus trips and hotel stays are the best."

Lead by Head Coach Gary Van Atta, Assistant Coach Matt Durkin, and Volunteer Assistant Coach Courtney Van Atta, the Falcon Men's Basketball team finishes the year with 5-21 overall.

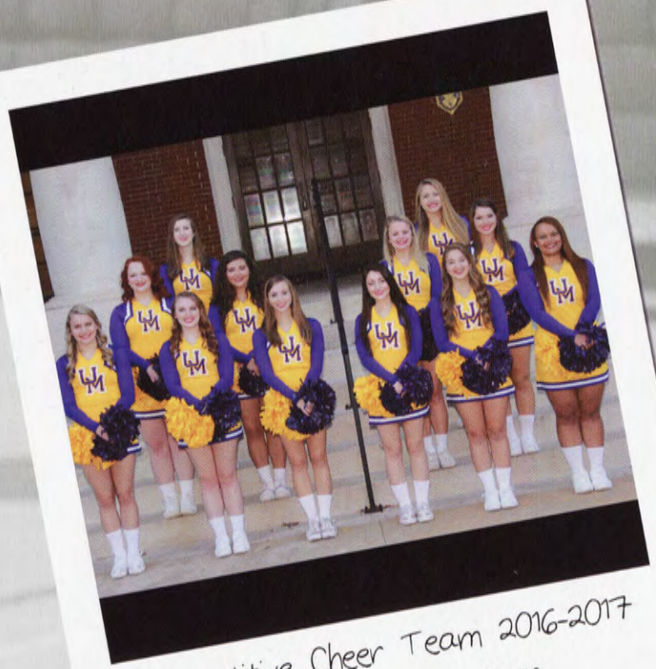
Women's Basketball Team 2016-2017
Photo courtesy of montevallofalcons.com

COMPETITIVE CHEER

The Falcon Competitive Cheer team faces the difficulty of having eight new members on a team with a total of twelve women. Hollie Brown, one of only four returners and leader on the team, recalls, "The challenge was teaching them stunts, pyramids, and dances we had learned last year. However, they caught on very quickly, and we were able to be even better than the previous year... Every single person improved as an individual. Whether it was improving on their motions, tumbling, or stunting, everyone became a better cheerleader, and it showed because we were great as a team." Brown advises future cheerleaders, "Make the most of the time you have. A year of cheering goes by in the blink of an eye. Take on new challenges, trust your teammates when trying new skills, give everything your 100%, and simply enjoy it. Embrace the ups, downs, sweat, and, sometimes, tears. Laugh, be silly, and love your teammates and coach; they practically become your family."

Another veteran and leader for the women, Michaela Nolin, says, "A personal challenge I had to overcome was having to sit out for a whole month due to a concussion I had from a car accident... Though I was going through a hard time and felt so bad that I couldn't physically be there for my team, my teammates encouraged me to stay positive and reinforced to me that everything happens for a reason... A highlight from this season would definitely be our performance at Midnight Madness... I was proud of the way my squad performed under pressure..."

Lead by Head Coach Toya Williams, the Falcon Competitive Cheer team participates in their first competition ever, the PBC Tournament, setting the bar for future members.



Competitive Cheer Team 2016-2017
photo credit: Alyssa Green

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Women's Lacrosse Team 2017
photo courtesy of montevallofalcons.com

On March 20th, the Falcon Lacrosse team cuts the ribbon on a new building that they will share with Baseball and Track and Field. The building includes a clubhouse for Baseball and locker rooms for the other two teams.

In her second season, junior midfielder Lauren Duckworth, says "We have a group of young ladies who are very passionate about this sport and feel honoured to play for Montevallo. We are blessed to have the support of UM in the making of our game field and locker room to kickstart the traditions and culture for this team. Our coach, Frank Rogers, has put an incredible amount of effort into not only this current team, but also in the program as a whole... It is beneficial for us to be starting this program because all of the players on this team realize they are contributing to something larger than just a collegiate team." Duckworth also addressed the challenges of being a new team, "There is a lack of traditions, culture, and well established role-models for this team at the moment, and that is a challenge our entire team is facing as we continue to develop this program."

Georgi Griffin, midfield/defensive player, recalls, "My favorite part of this season was our very first game. The pregame energy was there. For the freshmen, it was their first time in a college game. For the returners, we were coming back to face a team we beat in overtime the season before. The first half we were down by three, but second half clicked for us. The jitters were gone and it was really amazing to watch us all come together and play as a team and fight so hard to win."

Lead by Head Coach Frank Rogers and Assistant Coach Jessica Ormrod, the Falcon Women's Lacrosse team finishes the year with 8-10 overall.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country consists of long distance running across grass or a terrain of some sort. The Men's Cross Country team trains alongside the Women's, however the two compete completely separately. Runner Darrius Woody says, "My role on the team was to help score points every meet and to do so I had to be in the top five finishers on the team. As far as challenges, I had to become mentally tough to finish the five-mile race... As far as future runners, I would tell them to keep a positive mindset, never become satisfied, and continue to work hard."

Jordan Strong, team captain of two years, adds, "It's always a true challenge for any runner to get over the mental block that you may encounter in running. Running is 90% mental, so, that being said, if you aren't prepared for the race at hand or even just a workout, your results won't be great... My advice is to always remember what made you start the sport in the first place, (or what made you enjoy it) or you will lose your determination..." Strong goes on to say, "This year was our last year in the Peach Belt Conference, and we went out with a bang, placing higher than any other Vallo men's team in history, a very emotional time for everyone."

Lead by Head Coach Tommy Barksdale, Associate Head Coach Julia Marquardt, Assistant Coach Chad Balentine, Assistant Coach Hillary Jackson-Smith, and Volunteer Assistant Coach Michael Marquardt, the Falcon Men's Cross Country team wins the Foothill Invitational, places second overall at the Peach Belt Conference, and takes sixth at Regionals, which is the highest the team has finished in the two competitions.

Men's Cross Country Team 2016-2017

Photo courtesy of montevallofalcons.com

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Katherine Terino recalls, "In one of our early races this season, we finished third on our own course. We lost to one of our toughest regional opponents and one of our future Gulf South Conference opponents. It was a bitter pill to swallow. It made us very hungry for the rest of the season though and helped to motivate us when it came time for Conference and Regionals... We ended up beating the team that beat us earlier in the year by six points on our home course! It was like the perfect comeback! It's always nice to win on your home turf."

Malia Skidmore says, "Everyone on the team is accepted and valued. We push one another to be better and work harder every workout... [However,] there were definitely challenges. Most of us were almost always in some kind of pain whether it be cramps, soreness, or an injury. We have to work through that pain and take care of ourselves physically and mentally... [To future runners,] be prepared to work hard. Being dedicated is the most important thing because if you aren't all in, it makes it that much harder. You are much stronger than you think are."

Also lead by Head Coach Tommy Barksdale, Associate Head Coach Julia Marquardt, Assistant Coach Chad Balentine, Assistant Coach Hillary Jackson-Smith, and Volunteer Assistant Coach Michael Marquardt, the Falcon Women's Cross Country team finishes the year by winning the Peach Belt Conference for the third year in a row. Some of their runners individually took 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 7th.

Women's Cross Country Team 2016-2017

Photo courtesy of montevallofalcons.com

MEN'S GOLF

Senior Davis Bowyer recalls, "As far as challenges, there really weren't any. We worked together as a team very well and everyone was on the same page of what our goals were... My advice [to future players] is to enjoy it while it lasts because it does not last long at all. Do the best you can and give it your all because when it is done, it's done. The main goal at the end of the day is to have fun."

Justin Wood, one of the two team captains, says, "Both personally and as a team, it is extremely important to stay motivated. We play a sport that can't be perfected, and it takes a lot of dedication to keep improving... The highlight of the season for the team was breaking the school record for the lowest round ever in the final round of our home tournament. It just seemed like everyone played well at the right time, and it was a lot of fun seeing the hard work all pay off with a record-breaking performance." Wood goes on to advise future players, "It is extremely important to manage your time well. School obviously should come first and you need to plan your days accordingly to be able to excel not only on the golf course but in the classroom.

Lead by Head Coach Justine Pratt and Assistant Coach Andrew Lowry, the Falcon Men's Golf finishes the year by achieving 7th at the Peach Belt Conference in stroke average and a national ranking of 39th. The team breaks the school scoring record in their first tournament, and this score remains the lowest in the conference all season.

Men's Golf Team 2016-2017
Photo courtesy of montevallofalcons.com

WOMEN'S GOLF

Kirstie Saltiel, on the travelling team for the fourth year, recalls, "A personal challenge was leaving home and coming to the USA [having previously lived in England and Spain] to play college sports and pursing my degree in Kinesiology. I think balancing between school and sports is a challenge myself and my teammates encountered... Overall, during my playing time at Montevallo, a highlight for our team was always our incredible team chemistry and support for each other on and off the course... Just enjoy the opportunity you have been blessed with. Putting too much pressure on your performance from freshman year could hinder your enjoyment! And lastly, love your team! Stick together and have each other's back always."

Elaine Wood says, "In golf, just like other sports there are highs and lows and I think as a team we really did well with coming back from the lows and being able to enjoy the highs. Also, our team had a special team dynamic, so we were able to support each other through the season... The highlight for the year would be the two wins we had as a team. Our home tournament and the LeeAnn Noble Memorial at North Georgia. The other great accomplishment was making it to the NCAA regional tournament as a team for the second year in a row... My advice to future players is to enjoy the journey of college golf because you will get to experience a lot of great things. Also, push yourself because this will lead to great opportunities and results."

Also lead by Head Coach Justine Pratt and Assistant Coach Andrew Lowry, the Falcon Women's Golf team finishes the year ranking 17th in the Nation for all Division II Women's Golf Teams.

Women's Golf Team 2016-2017
photo courtesy of montevallofalcons.com

MEN'S SOCCER

Steven Rocca, defensive player and one of the two team captains, touches on the difficulty of maintaining team chemistry each year as players graduate and freshmen come in. Rocca says, "Team chemistry is crucial on the field. We have people from different parts of the world getting together to play, [and] people need to know where to find one another on the field and what the next step will be... The highlight of the season for me and probably for most of the guys was when we beat Saint Leo 3:2 in overtime. We were down 2:0 with less than three minutes left in the game. We somehow tied it up and beat them in Overtime. That's probably the game I will forever talk about when talking about my collegiate career... Time truly flies. One day you are a freshman and new to the program and then the next thing you know you get recognized on the field for Senior Night... Make the best of your time at Montevallo and value every moment.

Junior Jeffery Hessenberger, the second team captain, from Englesbrand, Germany, recalls the game in which the team dyed their hair blond. "The hair-dying started out with one guy saying he is going to dye his hair after we beat UWA. We did beat them, and he dyed his hair. Then, somebody came up with the idea of raising awareness for Childhood Cancer, and the color for that is gold.That's how 6 other teammates ended up dying their hair for a good cause."

Lead by Head Coach Bruce Dietterle, Assistant Coach Trey Gregory, and Volunteer Assistant Coach Ned Hunt, the Falcon Men's Soccer team finishes the year with a record of 11-6 overall.

Men's Soccer Team 2016
Photo courtesy of montevallofalcons.com

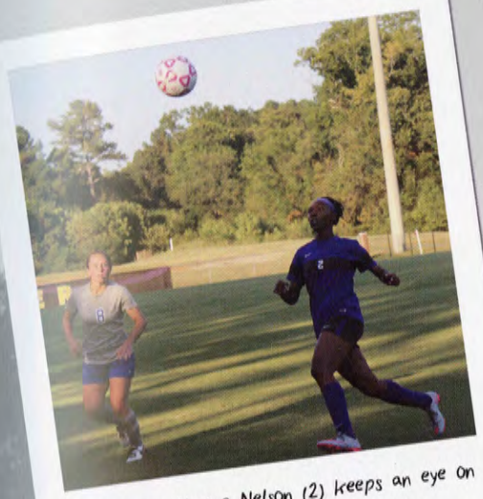
Patrick Morton (23) blocks a player from the opposing team while Liam Moore (3) goes for the ball

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Taylor Gonzales asserts, "My role as a teammate is to be a leader and set a positive example for the other girls so that we can keep on improving individually and as a team... We've definitely had to overcome our fair share of challenges. My freshman year we won one game, my sophomore year we won two, this past year, my junior year, we won six. Some of us had played under two or three coaches, so adjusting to different styles of play has been huge. Not only that, but our conference is also extremely competitive, so every game is a battle because the level of talent each team brings is very high... The highlight of the season for the team as well as for me personally was definitely Senior Night. We won 4-2, which put us into the conference tournament for the first time in Peach Belt Conference history, plus I scored two goals and had an assist. It was a crazy game." Gonzales continues, "My advice for future players would be to just keep putting in as much work as you can to refine your game. You can't replace a good work ethic; that quality time spent improving yourself will eventually lead to you completely redefining who you are as a player. If you can do that, your possibilities are endless."

Alex Zegarra, Midfielder, says, "A highlight of my season would be when Hannah Williamson scored her goal and did a sand angel." Zegarra advises future players to "work hard, push your teammates to be their best, and remember you're playing the sport you love—never forget that."

Lead by Head Coaches Robert Lane and Assistant Coach Jake Wyman, the Falcon Women's Soccer team finishes the year with a record of 6-9-1 overall.



Sophomore Simone Nelson (2) keeps an eye on the ball as it sails through the air

Women's Soccer Team 2016
Photo courtesy of montevallofalconscom

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Rayne Sinclair, an international student, says that the team has helped her feel at home. "They're like my family, and we always have to have each other's backs... Our team overcame a lot of challenges this year. We are a relatively new group of girls to UM all of us being sophomores and freshmen, so it's always hard facing more experienced teams, especially in a conference as good as the Peach Belt, but we had a record breaking season with number of wins total and conference wins." Likewise, Lauren Pero says, "My role as a teammate is to support, encourage, and motivate... As a competitor, my role is to play my heart out, and give my all. Whether I have won or lost, I want to leave my all on the court... To future players, I would say, come ready to play, never give up, and enjoy every moment."

Alina Munteanu recalls, "Sincerely, I feel that my freshman year was one of the hardest in my life—I had to overcome challenges related to culture, language, friendship and loneliness. It was just complicated, but there were 'strangers' that understood, supported, and believed in me, strangers that eventually became friends and family... As a young team, I believe that one of our initial obstacles was to learn to trust and understand each other. Tennis is extremely competitive and individualistic, but we had to support and push each other. During these two years, the biggest challenge we had to overcome was to build a team that feels like family."

Lead by Head Coach Adam Albertsen and Assistant Coach Nyssa Peele, the Falcon Women's Tennis team finishes the year with 16-9 overall, a new record of victories, and earns the highest national ranking in UM history of #34.

Women's Tennis Team 2016-2017
photo courtesy of montevallofalcons.com

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Women's Volleyball Team 2016
photo courtesy of montevallofalcons.com

Shannan Dudley, middle blocker, recalls, "I personally felt that the highlight of the season for our team was a stretch early in the season where we recorded 3 consecutive wins facing Lenoir-Rhyne (3-0), Belmont Abby (3-2), and Merrimack (3-0). As a team we recorded 33 blocks, 132 kills, and 203 digs during this stretch... As much as sports are physical they are equally, if not more, mental... Players have to accept that we are all human and mistakes will be made, you just have to play on and not get in your head."

Chandler Cooper, a team captain, says "The biggest challenge for our team would be the inconsistency. One game we would be on fire and all in sync, but the next it would be the total opposite. We really had to have a positive attitude in every game no matter the outcome. Everyone has different personalities and took our wins and loses differently as well. Trying to come up with a plan to get everyone on the same page was difficult, but we figured it out... My advice [to future Falcons] would be to never give up... Just keep working hard, and it will pay off in the end."

Breana Thomas, known to her teammates as a "mom," reflects on her personal struggles with multiple knee surgeries saying, "It was a tough journey for me, but I definitely learned to become a different type of leader." Thomas advises future players, "At the end of the eligibility, you will appreciate the early practices and the extra sprints and the dance parties in the locker room... Cherish the memories because you will not get this chance again."

Lead by Head Coach Katie O'Brien and Assistant Coach Yatza Tramosljanin, the Falcon Women's Volleyball team finishes the year with 12-16 overall.

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Track and Field is composed of distance runners, mid-distance runners, sprinters, throwers, pole vaulters, and jumpers. Donny Barnes, steeplechaser and 5k runner, tries to be a role model for his peers and motivate his teammates. Barnes recalls, "The highlight of my season came from finishing 1st in our conference championship in the steeplechase. Another competitor had pushed the pace the entire time and after that race, I was nationally ranked 21st in the event."

Emmanuel Higgins says, "As a competitor, [it was] everyone's job to train hard and get better every week. A teammate's role is to help encourage each other and create a team bond like no other." Despite the struggle of so many injured competitors Higgins claims, "The highlight of the season would have to be the fact that we finished overall in conference higher than anyone picked us to finish."

Cage Williamson, a veteran thrower in the Discus and Javelin, reflects, "As a team, we have had to overcome the challenge of being new. The men's track team has only existed for three years now, and [with that comes] many challenges regarding how we work together. Over time, though, we've built chemistry that keeps us close, and we all trust one another (and our coaches) to a high degree. As a team, we had a phenomenal season, and I could not be more proud of the group of individuals I compete with... For a future player, I would tell them to give 110% of themselves to everything they do. Work hard at your sport, but always work just as hard at everything else you do. Overcome your obstacles and exceed your goals. Champions are born through work, and each and every person has a chance to do great things."

Lead by Head Coach Tommy Barksdale, Associate Head Coach Julia Marquardt, Assistant Coach Chad Balentine, Assistant Coach Hillary Jackson-Smith, and Volunteer Assistant Coach Michael Marquardt, the Falcon Men's Track and Field team finishes the year with the following rankings in the Peach Belt Conference: Austin Burwell places 3rd in the Decathlon, Donny Barnes places 1st in the 3,000-Meter Steeplechase, Josh Fuqua places 2nd in the Shot Put, and Victor Montgomery places 5th in the 400-Meter Hurdles and 5th in 110-Meter Hurdles.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Kadejia Cheatom, one of the team captains and a thrower in Shot Put, Discus, and Hammer, says "[We strove to] make sure everyone understood how each and every one of us contributed something great.... It's always great watching everyone compete throughout the season, set new personal records, and improve, leading up to the championship." Senior Cheyenne Thompson adds, "Our team overcomes challenges every day just by getting out of bed and making it to practice every morning. We work hard and fight hard to do well at meets. Sometimes, we don't come away from track meets the way we want to... The highlight of the track season for me was definitely winning the 1500m at Conference. I have been working for years to do well at conference. I got third my freshman year, second my sophomore year, fifth my junior year, and finally my senior year the hard work paid off."

Brianna Bryant recalls, "It was a big thing for me to express to my teammates that no one knows you better than yourself, and change first comes within yourself. One issue on the team was having faith in ourselves as a whole and in what we were trying to achieve. As a teammate I tried to influence others to believe in yourself and to always remember 'Progress not Perfection'... Even though track is an individual sport (excluding relays), we had to learn to build each other up and support one another throughout all of our races."

Also lead by Head Coach Tommy Barksdale, Associate Head Coach Julia Marquardt, Assistant Coach Chad Balentine, Assistant Coach Hillary Jackson-Smith, and Volunteer Assistant Coach Michael Marquardt, the Falcon Women's Track and Field team finishes the year with the following rankings in the Peach Belt Conference: Morgan Booth places 2nd in the Javelin Throw, Cheyenne Thompson places 1st in the 1,500-Meter Run and 1st in the 3,000-Meter Steeplechase and 2nd in the 5,000-Meter Run, Anna Leinheiser places 2nd in the 1,500-Meter Run and 3rd in the 800-Meter Run, Katie Nelson places 1st in the 5,000-Meter Run and 1st in the 10,000-Meter Run, Katherine Terino places 3rd in the 10,000-Meter Run, Hunter Chavarry places 1st Heptathlon and 3rd in the 110-Meter Hurdles, and Natalie Shoemaker places 2nd in the 3,000-Meter Steeplechase. The team's 4x400-Meter Relay also finishes 3rd in the conference.

Track and Field Teams 2016-2017

Photo courtesy of montevallofalcons.com

ORGANIZATIONS

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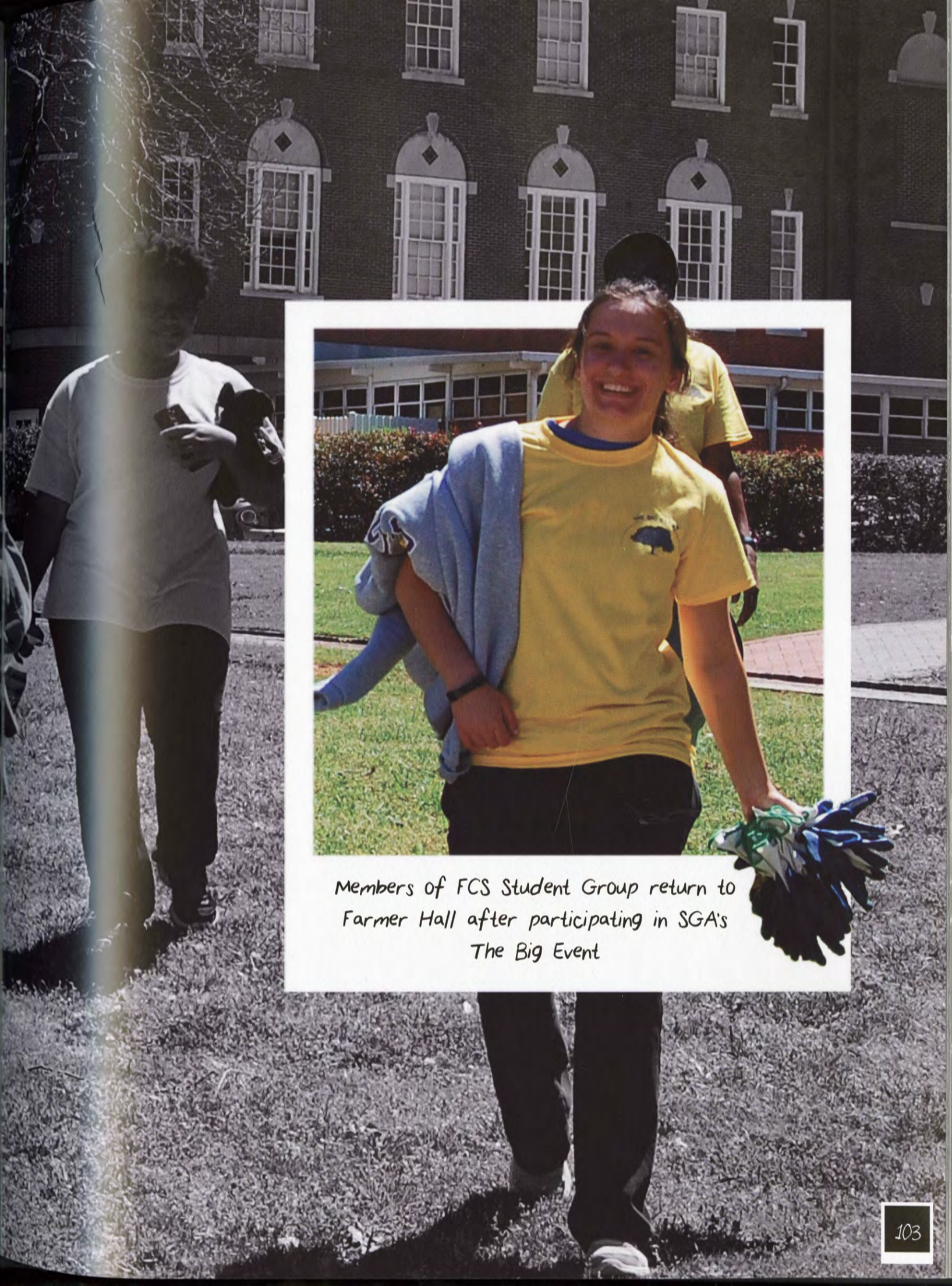

Members of FCS Student Group return to Farmer Hall after participating in SGA's The Big Event

ACADEMIC

105	FCS & Mathematics Club
106	Montevallo Honors Organization & National Assoc. for Music Edu.
107	National Broadcasting Society & NSSLHA
108	Phi Chi Theta & Philosophy Club
109	Psi Chi & Psychology Club
110	Social Work Club & Student Art Association
111	Student Dietetics Association & Theater Student Organization
112	UM Pre-Health Professionals Society
113	UM Professional Educators Association
114-115	COMS DAY
116-117	Undergraduate Research Day

FCS

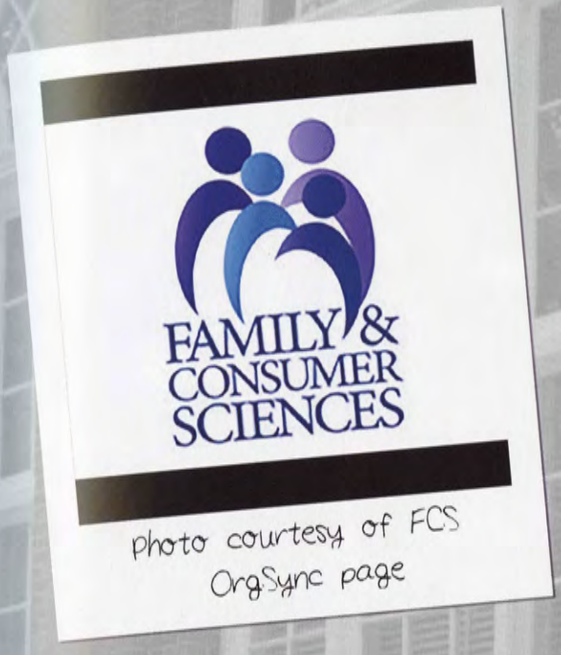

photo courtesy of FCS OrgSync page

The University of Montevallo's Family and Consumer Sciences Student Group is commonly known across campus as the FCS Student Group. This organization is a chapter of the state's larger branch of ALAFCS and the nation's main group of AAFCS. The group aims to produce confident and caring students who can competently balance their schedules with their career, family, and personal lives. The FCS Student Group prepares students for their future responsibilities within the home, consumerism, and the workforce. In order to join, students must be within the Family and Consumer Sciences department as a major or minor. The organization holds social and service-oriented events.

MATHEMATICS CLUB

The Math Club provides a friendly environment for students to explore their interests in mathematics through discussion and the open sharing of ideas with peers who are also engaged in the discipline. This is done during the group's regular meetings in addition to watching movies, listening to guest speakers, solving problems, and enjoying food. In order to reach out to the campus and community, the Math Club offers fun events, such as annual Pi Day activities. The organization also offers opportunities like research presentations, tutoring through Montevallo High School, Pi Day bake sales, and free tutoring for finals.

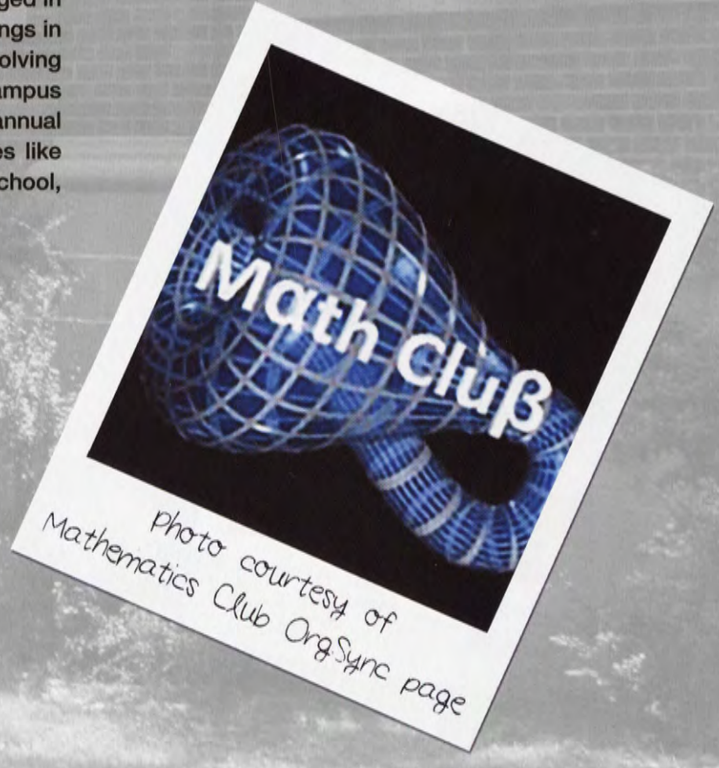

photo courtesy of Mathematics Club OrgSync page

MONTEVALLO HONORS ORGANIZATION

The Montevallo Honors Organization, also known as MHO, aims to help the Honors students to get to know each other on campus through events and activities. Often taking place in Ramsay or Hill House, these programs foster a welcoming and fun learning environment in which students can explore their interests and socialize with their peers. MHO also hopes to prepare Honors students for future leadership roles. This year, the organization hosted Read Across UM, which celebrates Read Across America Day with literary activities in Hill House, and the annual Dr. Patton vs. the World, a trivia contest in which the students, faculty, and staff of UM try to beat Dr. Patton. MHO also hosts Hell House, their yearly Halloween party, which is open to all students and includes a costume contest and a dramatic recitation of Edgar Allan Poe's The Raven by Dr. Barone.

Members of MHO announce the winners of the Hell House Costume Contest

Stephen Gilbert, Sam Lasagna, Chuy Guzar, & Will Kirkpatrick discuss their teams answers to trivia questions during Dr. Patton vs. the World

Be-costumed students await Dr. Barone's recital of The Raven

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

The National Association for Music Education, or NAfME, is a student organization with the goal of developing and furthering students' skills as present and future music educators. In order to join the Montevallo chapter, students must be first registered with the national NAfME chapter. Once admitted on campus, members participate in events at the local, state, and national levels. Also, the University of Montevallo NAfME program aims to encourage more participation in meetings and events, expand its Peer Mentor program, increase service in the community, and present more professional development opportunities for it's members through the organization.

Photo courtesy of National Association for Music Education Orgsync page

NATIONAL BROADCASTING SOCIETY

Members of the National Broadcasting Association receive their certificates at the COMS Honors Day

The University of Montevallo's National Broadcasting Society is co-branded with the Broadcast Education Association to form NBS-BEA. This organization is for students who are interested in and would like more experience in radio, electronic media, television, cable, film, broadcasting, and mass communication. In order to join, students must be majoring in Mass Communication, pay a one-time fee for membership, and go to monthly meetings. The group gives students an environment in which they can find their niche in shooting, writing, or editing stories for weekly broadcast. Students also have the chance to participate in Web stream and multimedia productions. The NBS-BEA has taken on projects like Falcon Fever, UStream, and MontevalloForYou. The money this group raises goes toward annual conference trips.

NSSLHA

The National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, also known as NSSLHA, falls under the umbrella of ASHA, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. ASHA is the governing body of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology that aims to increase awareness of language, hearing, and speech issues. In order to join NSSLHA, students, both graduate and undergraduate, must be majoring in Speech Language Pathology. The organization hosts events for its members to promote relationships among students within the same discipline, but NSSLHA also opens up events in the community to accomplish their goal of raising awareness.

Photo courtesy of NSSLHA Orgsync page

PHI CHI THETA

Phi Chi Theta is a professional business and economics fraternity for men and women. Founded in 1973, the University of Montevallo's chapter, Gamma Tau, accepts students majoring or minoring in business with an overall GPA of at least 2.75. In order to join, members must rush, accept their bid, follow the pledging procedures afterward, including the completion of the Phi Chi pledge test. Members must also actively participate in Phi Chi's meetings and service projects. The organization holds events like job fairs, the biannual Professional Image Seminar, and coffee and bake sales.

Members of Phi Chi Theta sell coffee and baked goods to students and professors passing through the Comer Breezeway

PHILOSOPHY CLUB

The University of Montevallo's Philosophy Club is a medium through which students can openly discuss and delve into many different philosophical concepts in a welcoming, respectful, and academic atmosphere. These topics vary from a broad range, but some general talking points often include current events, ethical dilemmas, and philosophical texts. All of these topics can be debated, discussed, and dissected within this philosophical context. The UM Philosophy Club also holds philosophical forums, puts on the Life Raft Debate in Palmer Hall every year, and, when available, the organization attends philosophy conferences in the region.

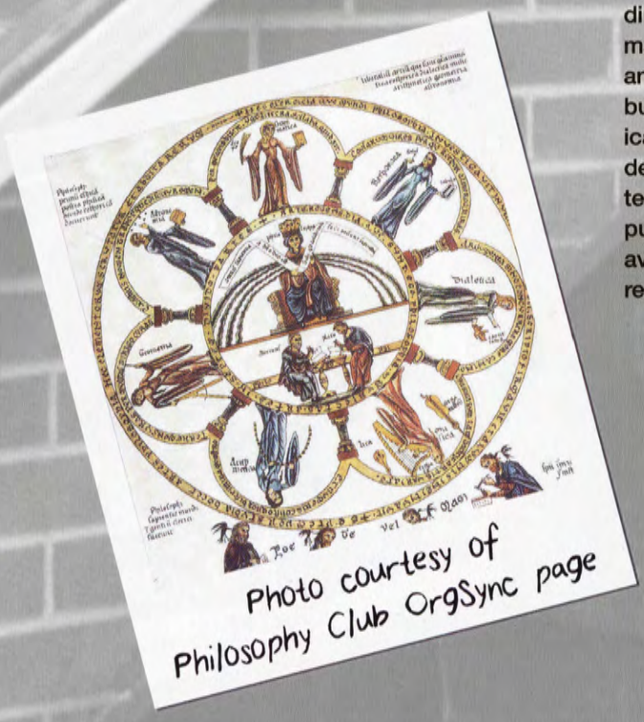

Photo courtesy of Philosophy Club OrgSync page

PSI CHI

Founded in 1929, Psi Chi stands as the International Honor Society for Psychology. With more than 1,100 chapters, Psi Chi is one of the largest honor societies in the United States. In order to join the organization, students must be selected on the basis of academic excellence and outstanding leadership skills within the Psychology discipline. After receiving this invitation, each student recommended must also complete and submit an application to the Psychology department. Advisors then review the applications and admit those who exemplify the high standards that Psi Chi holds. All who are inducted into the society must carry out the mission of encouraging and maintaining their acts of excellence and interest in the advancement of the science.

Photo courtesy of Psi Chi OrgSync page

PSYCHOLOGY CLUB

The University of Montevallo Psychology Club provides an environment in which students can explore their interests in the study of psychology. During the club's meetings, members socialize, discuss topics in a psychology context, and plan events. These events include bake sales, potlucks, conferences, informative panels, and service projects such as volunteering at Hill Crest Behavioral Health Center. Each of these is aimed toward raising awareness for the need for psychology in addition to raising money, in tandem with SGA funding, for ALCA and APA conferences and for networking. The money also goes toward the organization of informational panels.

Photo courtesy of Psychology Club OrgSync page

SOCIAL WORK CLUB

The Social Work Club is open to social work majors, human service minors, and any students interested in community service work. Its goal is to find and serve those in the Montevallo area who are in need. These service projects rely entirely on the students and often vary so far as their nature and their execution. Students are not fully committed to events because of their attendance to meetings, but all are welcome and encouraged to volunteer. Some of these events broadly include social service, community outreach, volunteer service, and community needs assessment.

Photo courtesy of Social Work Club Facebook page

STUDENT ART ASSOCIATION

The University of Montevallo's Student Art Association is a chance for students to use and develop their artistic abilities while helping others. This active use of student talent also offers a chance for personal expressions and improvement for the university's artists. Members volunteer at events like the Big Event, art walks, and festivals. Interim President Rebekah Scholl says, "We had a lot of success at the Art Festivals with a kids booth where parents could bring their kids to do little arts and crafts. I really enjoyed the pop up gallery we did at Eclipse, getting the chance to bring more art into the local community and giving UM students the chance to show their pieces in a public setting."

Student Art Association members each submitted one or two pieces for the show

The Student Art Association holds a pop up gallery in Eclipse

STUDENT DIETETICS ASSOCIATION

Photo courtesy of Student Dietetics Association OrgSync page

The Student Dietetics Association is open to students who want to give back while learning more about dietetics, nutrition and wellness, kinesiology, and health promotion. Members must be majoring in one of the fields of study listed and must also pay a yearly membership fee of $5. Members should also commit to actively attend as many of the meetings, of which there are four a week, as possible. The Student Dietetics Association hopes to participate in community service and fundraising events and, primarily, to promote awareness of the club itself and the lifestyle health for which it stands.

THEATER STUDENT ORGANIZAION

The Theater Student Organization, or TSO, holds one officer and one public meeting per month, the latter of which is open to theater majors and anyone with an interest in the discipline. TSO hosts events like opening night receptions for the seasonal shows and their Welcome Back party in the Fall co-sponsored with the Theater faculty. The group also sponsored the student production "Property Rites" and held a Game Night filled with improv. President Ian Reed says, "Theatre is all about being hands-on. Sadly, there isn't enough opportunity for every student to get the roles they want, whether it be in technical theater, stage plays, or musicals... If we want to be serious about our education and our future, we have to be willing to go even just one extra step, because you can't get where you want to be by just coasting. The TSO provides students with a way to take that extra step."

Photo courtesy of Theatre Student Organization Facebook page

UM PRE-HEALTH PROS. SOCIETY

The University of Montevallo Pre-Health Professionals Society participates in community service projects and hosts guest speakers in lieu of holding meetings on a regular basis. This organization aims to motivate and help along those students who are wanting to pursue the next level in their professional health career. In an environment with peers in similar situations, members can network and focus on both their professional and personal growth. The group offers practice tests, guest speakers, and other opportunities off-campus for its members alongside service projects like their toy drive for the Children's Hospital.

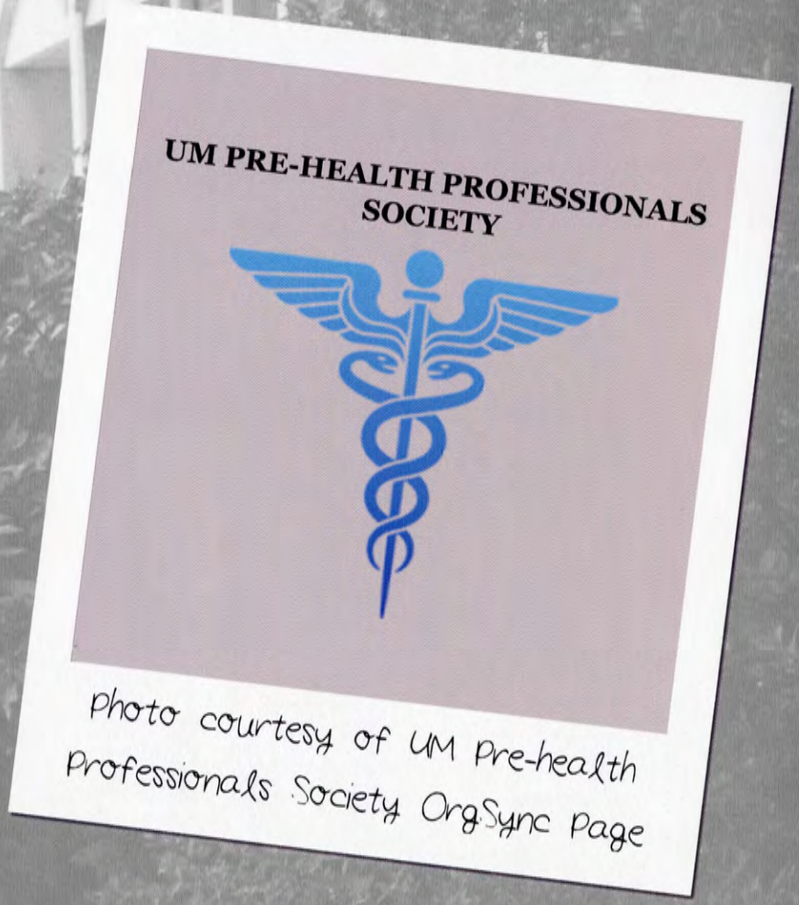

Photo courtesy of UM Pre-health Professionals Society OrgSync Page

UM PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS ASSOC.

New to the campus this year, the University of Montevallo Professional Educators Associations is composed of students who are on the path of becoming future educators. The Professional Educators Association is open to those who are seeking to improve their professional skills in addition to participating in community outreach. In order to join, students must pay dues for the organization and be a member of a professional organization for educators or actively pursuing an education major. The group hosts meetings, fundraisers, opportunities for professional development, guest speakers, and service projects.

photo courtesy of UMPEA Facebook page

Panelists Monica Black and Chloe Cook discuss Creating Through COMS

Freshman Mass Communication student Tessa Burns receives a "Finish in 4" bag during the second raffle of the day

Crystal Rosleam talks about the two bridges in her life: the Community College Bridge and Communication Studies Bridge

Calli Robinson speaks on brand awareness and engaging with an audience

COMS DAY

Clark Maxwell emphasizes workplace experience and encourages any and every student to become involved in internships

The 6th Annual COMS Day is put on by Dr. Ozley and his COMS 499: Senior Seminar in Communications Studies class. In order to prepare for the day, students had to plan the activities, reserve the venue, find and invite speakers, and run the event's social media campaign. The event itself functions as an educational outreach for the Communications Studies discipline, showing its attendees the value and beauty of communication's many applications in life. Themed as "Bridge the Gap," this year's COMS Day explores the connections that communication creates for all people in both professional and personal environments. The event includes presentations, speeches, and panels. Students are invited to ask questions of the speakers. COMS Day also features raffles in between the various aspects of the event.

As Public Relations Chair of COMS 499, Giselle Casadaban worked together with three other students to promote the social media campaign, reach out to community colleges, and create and send invitations and thank-yous. Casadaban recalls, "Preparation for COMS Day was extensive and very intense. I would estimate that it took at least half the semester to plan everything... However, our professor Dr. Ozley was there for us whenever we needed him. He really had a big hand in making it all possible and pushing us to achieve the best COMS Day that we could... The highlight for me was seeing how many people understood the Communications Studies major so much more deeply after attending the event. A lot of people don't understand COMS, they think we're a 'public speaking' major. COMS is so much more than that. And that's why having COMS Day is so important. It shows how versatile the major really is. The skills you learn can be applied in both personal and professional settings, and I think that's really special!"

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Abstract

Methods

Results

Introduction

Discussion

Katie McCormick provides commentary on the university's production of "Much Ado About Nothing" through photos and her blog

Heather Sprowl presents her research poster to a crowd of assembled students

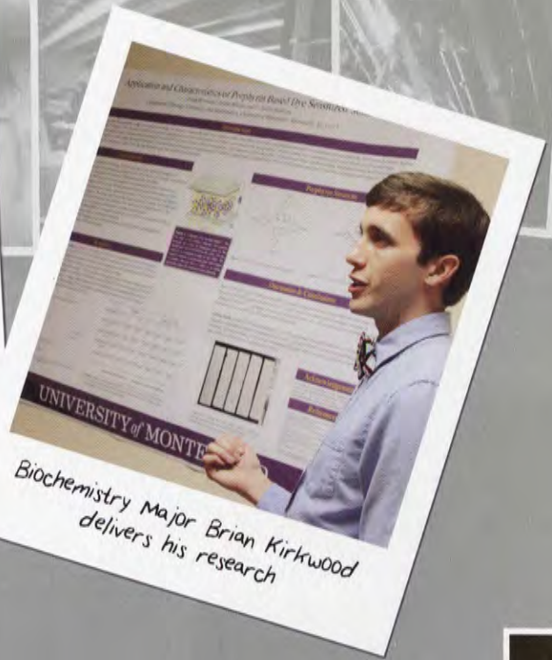
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY

The 20th Annual Undergraduate Research Day, abbreviated to URD by some, includes of oral presentations (consisting of a 10-12 minute speech and, ideally, a visual aid) and poster presentations (consisting of 2-3 minute presentations) based on research done by undergraduate students. These presentations cover the disciplines of Chemistry, Biology, Sociology, History, English, Communication Studies, Political Science, Kinesiology, Mathematics, Theater, Music, Environmental Studies, Psychology, Biochemistry, Economics, and Marketing. Taking place every spring from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, the event closes with an award ceremony in the last hour during which a panel of judges present cash prizes to the top three oral and top three poster presentations. Projects are judged based on the knowledge gained, the work's significance, the presenter's organization and delivery, introductory statements, components of the scientific method, clear development of the argument, closing remarks, originality, clarity, and response to the questions asked after their corresponding oral presentation. Undergraduate Research Day is open to all students from any discipline who have performed independent research or engineered a creative project as facilitated by a faculty member. This faculty mentor must review the final product before the student's presentation at URD.

Undergraduate Research Day presenter Lily Dickinson remembers her personal process, "I had been working with [Dr. Chandler] on an essay for my ENG 104 class, and she felt that the topic I had come up with would be well suited for an URD project. And so, my process began. First, to prepare, I got a notebook to compile all my notes. After fully fleshing out the idea of my project, I gathered sources to use, four books and a few articles online, and worked for about a month researching and gathering notes on my topic. Then, in the weeks prior to URD, I created a outline and PowerPoint for my presentation. I practiced this presentation in front of my friends and family numerous times, and sent my presentation and outline for critique and revisions to another UDR participant, Donovan Cleckley, until I felt I was properly prepared. Overall, it was a tiring and stressful process, that I nonetheless enjoyed and hope to do again... Overall, I found URD to be somewhat hectic, but still immensely fun. I had to get up early to get to my assigned area to present in one of the classrooms in Harman. I was assigned to go second, so I sat nervously through the first presentation before having to go up and present myself. Our presentations had to be ten minutes long, and following the ten minutes, we had a short Q&A with the judges, and any others in the room who had questions. My favorite part was the Q&A because I really enjoyed talking about my presentation topic and having a conversation about the ideas I am passionate about... My topic ["The Trope of Ownership in Theories of African American Education: From G.M. Elliott to Ta-Nehisi Coates"] was something that I was, and still am, very interested in, so it was very fun to share my interests with those who were in attendance for my presentation. It was very rewarding to see the hard work of my peers and listen to the intelligent and interesting presentations they gave. I think the highlight of URD for me would be seeing all the hard work that I and all the others who participated brought into fruition."

Sammy Morse's in-depth analysis on the purpose of music in Chinese rituals

A group of psychology majors after presenting their research during the psychology session of UR Day



Biochemistry Major Brian Kirkwood delivers his research

HONORARY SOCIETIES

119 Alpha Lambda Delta & Golden Key

120 Kappa Delta Pi & Kappa Mu Epsilon

121 Kappa Omicron Nu & Lambda Pi Eta

122 Omicron Delta Kappa & Order of Omega

123 Phi Alpha Theta & Pi Delta Phi

124 Sigma Delta Pi & Sigma Tau Delta

125 NSLS & American Choral Directors Association

ALPHA LAMBDA DELTA

Alpha Lambda Delta is the National Honor Society for incoming first-year students who are in the top 20% of their class with at least a 3.5 GPA. The organization strives to foster high standards of academics and life choices, along with a sense of community among its members. Alpha Lambda Delta also aims to prepare its members for their success after college as they seek out their niche in society. Meeting at least once per semester, the students of Alpha Lambda Delta plan their spring initiation and ideas for community service or on-campus activities. This year's ceremony took place in Anna Irvin, and 89 new students were initiated into the organization.

New Initiates of Alpha Lambda Delta

Justin Knight lights Jessica Lett's candle during the Candle Ceremony

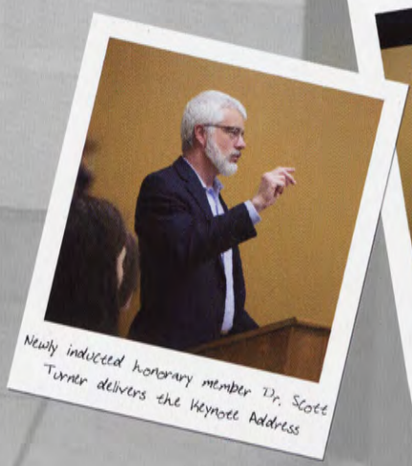
Each new member signs the Chapter Roll to record their initiation

GOLDEN KEY

Golden Key is an international honor society that focuses on the recognition of academic success, innovation, and integrity. It is composed of the top 15% of students. With over two million members across the globe, Golden Key offers opportunities for service, scholarships, and awards along with networking amongst members and alumni. The organization also cooperates with corporations and graduate programs in order to further their member's success and possible career advancement. The University of Montevallo chapter is aiming to achieve "Silver Status," which is a result of holding four Spark a Change events.

New Initiates of Golden Key

Golden Key Officers



Newly inducted honorary member Dr. Scott Turner delivers the Keynote Address

KAPPA DELTA PI

Originating at the University of Illinois in the year of 1911, Kappa Delta Pi is the honor society for teachers and other educators. It aims to promote the hardworking spirit of their student members while fostering their fellowship with each other through meetings and events. The Greek letters chosen to represent the organization stand for the concepts of knowledge, power, and duty. From its beginning, Kappa Delta Pi has included both men and women within its membership, and it has more than 40,000 members today; this number grows with their spring initiations. Kappa Delta Pi also has more than 600 chapters.

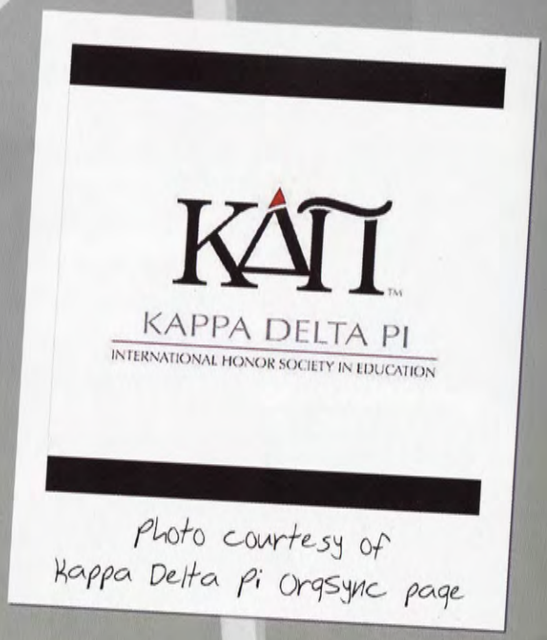


Photo courtesy of Kappa Delta Pi Orgsync page

KAPPA MU EPSILON

The honor society for mathematics at the University of Montevallo is Kappa Mu Epsilon. This organization hopes to deepen students' love of the discipline in addition to fostering and furthering others' interest. Kappa Mu Epsilon strives to educate its members on the monumental role that mathematics played and still plays in Western Civilization through modern advancements and to recognize the students who exemplify outstanding achievement within the field. In order to join, students must have earned credit for three or more semesters and rank in the top 35% of their class with at least a B average in all of their mathematics courses.

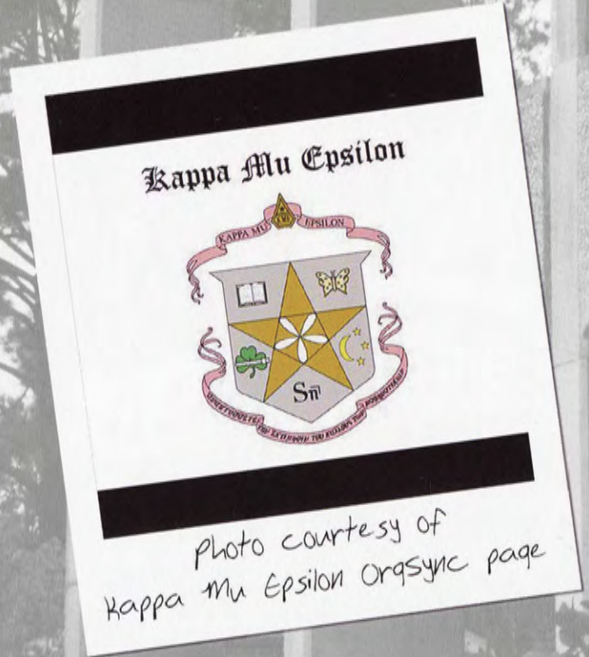


Photo courtesy of Kappa Mu Epsilon Orgsync page

KAPPA OMICRON NU

Kappa Omicron Nu is the honor society for students who have chosen to major in the human sciences or one of their specializations. The organization is composed of both undergraduate and graduate students within the specified majors who have completed at least 45 semester hours. Members must also meet the high standards of academic study that induction requires, such as maintaining a status in the top 25% of their class. The main goal of the University of Montevallo's branch of Kappa Omicron Nu is to advocate and promote their presence on campus and the local community surrounding the university.

Photo courtesy of Kappa Omicron Nu Facebook page

LAMBDA PI ETA

Lambda Pi Eta is the University of Montevallo's Communication Honor Society. It is the honor society of the National Communication Association for four-year institutions of higher education, and it aims to spread understanding and appreciation of communication studies in addition to promoting high levels of academic achievement within the discipline. Lambda Pi Eta hosts events like the COMS Majors Mixer, Etiquette Dinner, and induction into the society. The mixer gives incoming students an introduction to their Communications peers, professors, and the major itself. Executed in tandem with COMS 299 "Career and Professional Development," the Etiquette Dinner helps students to understand professional behavior in a networking setting with a five-course formal dinner. Inductions are students' admission into Lambda Pi Eta during which they receive certificate and pins.

COMS students learn the rules of dining in a professional setting at the Lambda Pi Eta Etiquette Dinner

Members of Lambda Pi Eta

OMICRON DELTA KAPPA

Founded in 1914, the National Leadership Honor Society, also known as Omicron Delta Kappa, strives to help students grow into well-rounded individuals through their membership and their dedication to the values that the society holds. Omicron Delta Kappa aims to recognize college students who maintain the ideals of leadership. As its members develop, the organization hopes to foster further growth in five major areas: scholarship, athletics, service, communication, and the arts. Omicron Delta Kappa also calls for its members to uphold the value of exemplary character, responsible leadership or service, superior scholarship, genuine fellowship, and consecration to democratic ideals.

Photo courtesy of odk.org

ORDER OF OMEGA

The Order of Omega recognizes sorority and fraternity members who have earned junior or senior status, a 3.2 GPA or higher, and are in good standing with their chapter. This year only 15 total students were chosen. Inducted this year, April Lee says, "This was a real confidence booster and I hope to inspire others in my chapter to work hard in academics in order to represent our chapter well...I thought it was important for NPHC representation in Order of Omega so I applied because I knew I had the credentials. It would look good for my sorority chapter and NPHC."

Photo courtesy of Order of Omega OrgSync Page

PHI ALPHA THETA

Established in the year of 1921, Phi Alpha Theta is the History Honor Society on the University of Montevallo's campus; this chapter is the Theta Iota Chapter. In order to join the organization, students must have a 3.0 overall GPA in addition to a 3.2 GPA in at least 12 of their completed credit hours of History courses. Phi Alpha Theta encourages students to embrace the study of history through the promotion of research, education, publication, and the scholarly discussion and exchange of ideas and concepts amongst historians.

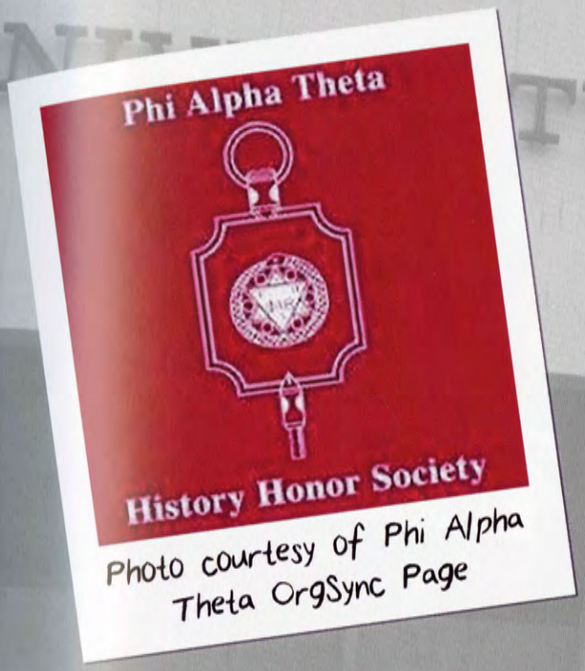


Photo courtesy of Phi Alpha Theta OrgSync Page

PI DELTA PHI

Pi Delta Phi is a forum in which students are recognized for their excellent scholarship within the French language. Alongside this, Pi Delta Phi aims to promote knowledge and appreciation of the French language and culture, such as francophone literature. In doing so, the organization hopes to illuminate French cultural contributions in modern world. In order to join the group, students must be attempting to major or minor in French, while holding at least a B average in all of their French courses. Members must also maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 and be in the top 30% of their class.

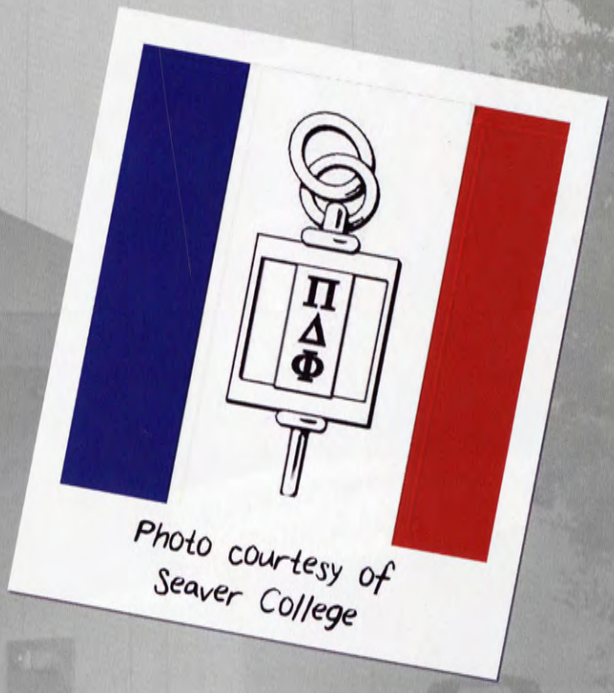


Photo courtesy of Seaver College

SIGMA DELTA PI

Founded in 1919, Sigma Delta Pi is the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, or la Sociedad Nacional Honoraria Hispanica. The University of Montevallo's chapter is Epsilon Eta, and it was founded in 1963. Sigma Delta Pi is a non-profit organization and a part of the Association of College Honor Societies. The group also partners with the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese and the North American Academy of the Spanish Language.

In order to join Sigma Delta Pi, students must have completed three years of study of college-level Spanish or an equivalent to the 18 semester credit hours, three hours of which must be in Hispanic literature or Hispanic culture and civilization at the third-year level. The candidates for induction, male or female, must also have at least a 3.0 in their Spanish courses and rank in the top 35% of their class.

Photo Courtesy of Sierra Turner

SIGMA TAU DELTA

Sigma Tau Delta is the honor society for English majors and minors in universities and colleges around the world. The on-campus organization aims to promote literacy and foster academic environments in which those skills can be developed. Members meet to plan initiations and participate in any of the group's events. The University of Montevallo's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta holds up to two Annual Chili Sales. These sales raise money for members to be able to travel and attend Sigma Tau Delta conferences to present and learn from other literary presentations.

Photo Courtesy of Keshia McClantoc

NSLS

With over 350 chapters and 250,000 members, the National Society of Leadership and Success places a strong emphasis on professional and academic advancement for its members along with their own personal development in the process. The organization also aims to recruit as many students as possible, so long as they can uphold the requirements to be inducted. All eligible students receive their invitations by mail. The University of Montevallo's National Society of Leadership and Success holds events each year, such as orientation, Leadership Training Day, speaker broadcast events, and Success Networking Team meetings.

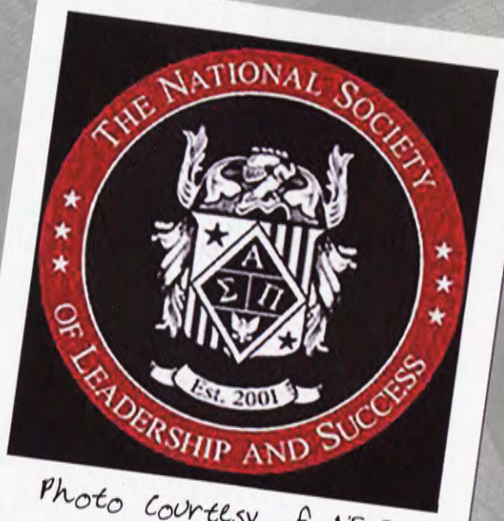


Photo Courtesy of NSLS OrgSync Page

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOC.

The University of Montevallo's American Choral Directors Association, also known as ACDA, requires that its members be first registered with the national ACDA chapter in order to be inducted into its chapter on campus. The organization aims to serve the community while educating its members and those they reach out to about Choral Music Education. It also strives to further its members' interest and excellence in this discipline. The UM American Choral Directors Association hopes to increase its presence on campus and in the community in addition to becoming more involved with philanthropy and outreach through events like the "Big Event."

Photo Courtesy of Melinda Doyle

Photo Courtesy of Melinda Doyle

STUDENT GOVERNANCE

127 Interfraternity Council & Minority Student Union

128 National Pan-Hellenic Council & Panhellenic Council

129 Student Government Association

INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

The Interfraternity Council, also called the IFC, governs over Alpha Kappa Lambda, Alpha Tau Omega, Lambda Chi Alpha, and Phi Gamma Delta, the four IFC fraternities at the University of Montevallo. Each of these fraternities has two IFC representatives- an officer and a delegate. In order to be in these fraternities, each young man must have a 2.3 high school GPA to join as a freshman or earn a 2.25 in college to join later. These representatives oversee various aspects of Greek life, such as recruitment in the fall, and aim to host at least one event every month of the school year. The IFC strives to promote excellence, recruit as many men as possible, and search for ways to better each fraternity on campus for its members.

Photo courtesy of Interfraternity Council OrgSync page

MINORITY STUDENT UNION

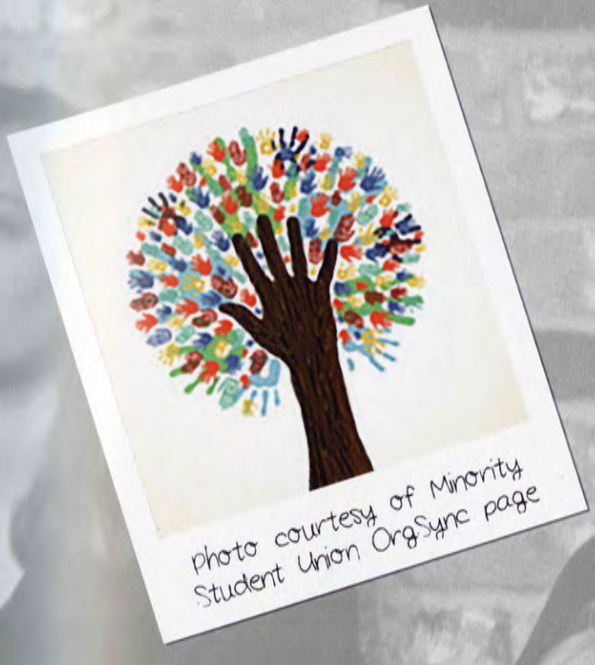


photo courtesy of Minority Student Union OrgSync page

The Minority Student Union, or MSU, is an organization that is available to any student who identifies as a minority, such as African-American, Hispanic, Muslim, Jewish, or LGBTQ+. The MSU gives a much larger voice to these minority groups on campus and facilitates better communication between them and the university administrators. It also hosts events and programs that are meant to inform, empower, and motivate the student body. Some of these events include Game Night, Movie Night, Election Watch Party, and the Business Attire Fashion Show. The fashion show is an educational, yet fun opportunity for peers to see what is and is not appropriate attire when entering a professional setting. Shaina Cadet, one of the models for appropriate clothing, recalls, "I want to help students who want to know what business attire and business casual are. You would be surprised by how many people don't know about it. I was happy to help [with the fashion show]."

NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL

The National Pan-Hellenic Council of the University of Montevallo presides over the historically African-American Greek organizations on the UM campus. Each of these organizations has delegates on the council in order to fairly coordinate events, programs, and activities for the members of each group. In order to join, the members must be full-time students with a set GPA, good character, community service hours, and at least 12 completed semester hours. In meeting these qualifications, the council aims to maintain a high standard for its Greek organizations as well as keeping UM's African-American Community engaged and active on campus.

Photo courtesy of National Pan-Hellenic Council OrgSync page

PANHELLENIC COUNCIL

The Panhellenic Council of the University of Montevallo includes representatives from every sorority on campus. These representatives are also members of one of the five National Panhellenic Conference, or NPC, sororities at the university. The Panhellenic Council meets to organize, plan, and execute events for those five NPC sororities that are in their shared interests. The council is also responsible for the sororities' other activities, such as leadership opportunities, community service, charity projects, and building an overall bond of sisterhood between members and their respective organizations through these exciting experiences.

Photo courtesy of Panhellenic Council OrgSync page

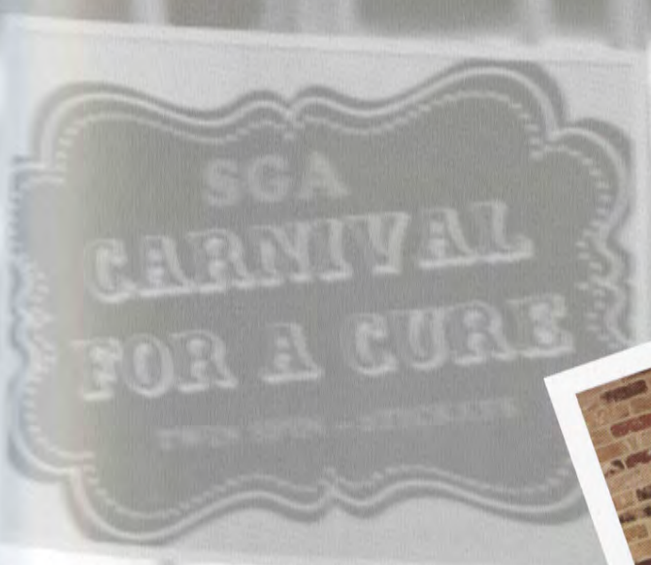
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Hunter Huie, Xavier Scruggs & President Stewart participate in Stroll to the Polls

The Student Government Association, widely known across campus as SGA, functions as the voice of the students, but it does so much more than that. It aspires to better the university for the students by receiving and acting upon feedback from the student body. In doing so, it also aims to involve and include more students in activities while encouraging their participation in events on campus.

In order to join SGA, students must campaign for specific positions like Freshman Forum, Student Senate, or an Executive role. Each fall semester, the Freshman Forum applications for the year become available to incoming freshman students who are interested in SGA. All other applications must be accepted in the spring. Likewise, the President, Vice President, Treasurer, UPC Coordinator, and Senior Class President are also elected in the spring. The president this year is Hunter Huie.

This year, the Student Government Association holds their annual Carnival for a Cure on the Main Quad in addition to a Karaoke Night and the Stroll to the Polls, which successfully motivated students to vote for the 2016 presidency by walking to the polls with their peers. Each year, SGA puts on other various events such as blood drives, cafeteria surveys, student debates, and a Be The Match donor registration.



Breanna Malone washes the sign outside Davis Hall during Campus Cleanup

Lizbeth Juarez runs for the office of SGA President at the debate

RELIGIOUS

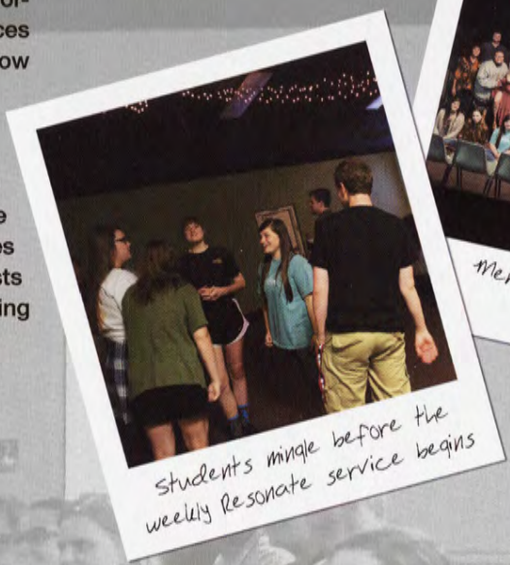
131 Baptist Campus Ministries & Catholic Campus Ministries

132 Chi Alpha Campus Ministry & I Am Second

133 Montevallo Christian Athletes & UM Pantheon

BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Also known as the BCM, the Montevallo Baptist Campus Ministries allows like-minded students to gather together in order to study the Bible, worship, evangelize, and perform services for their community. The members of the BCM develop and grow their faith together as they share the Gospel and forge lasting friendships based in their beliefs. The BCM sponsors events like the Picnic Day, Prayer Tent, Hang Out Night, Ask Anything session, Cafe Escape, Bake Sale, Resonate, Engage 24, Progressive Dinner, Halloween parties, game nights, and movie nights. The Cafe Escape, occurring every Wednesday, features home-cooked lunches from churches in the area. It also hosts performances from groups like Common Ground and their Spring Banquet to celebrate their members and the year they shared.



Students mingle before the weekly Resonate service begins

Members of the Baptist Campus Ministries

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRIES

The Catholic Campus Ministries meets every Wednesday at the CCM Student Center. All students of all faiths are welcome to come to celebrate the Holy Mass and the home-cooked dinner provided afterward. The Catholic Campus Ministries aim to service the local area, to inform about the Catholic faith, and to grow their familial, faith community by welcoming new students and holding larger events. These events include Student Mass and Meal, the Annual "Stump the Priest," First Friday of Lent Social, Halloween party at CCM, and ministering the Student Retreats for local high school students who are in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Students enjoy fellowship at the weekly Mass & Meal. Photo courtesy of Marie Brewer

Members of the Catholic Campus Ministries. Photo courtesy of Marie Brewer

CHI ALPHA CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Chi Alpha Campus Ministry is a Christian organization at the University of Montevallo. The organization is a chance for like-minded and faithful students to meet with each other, discuss their faith, and delve deeper into their relationships with God and each other through Bible study. The main goal of the Chi Alpha Campus Ministry is to encourage discipleship by leading with a joyous and loving example and spreading His Word.

Photo courtesy of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries OrgSync page

I AM SECOND

As the name suggests, the goal of I Am Second is to gather together Christian students who all want God to be first in their lives. The group strives to inform its members and fellow peers on campus about the Word and encourage all to follow Christ's example within it. Meeting in Bloch Hall every other Thursday, I Am Second meets to discuss their faith and plan outreach programs in the future. One of these programs is the See You at the Flagpole event in which students meet to pray for the nation before Election Day. This non-partisan event also consists of a student-led devotional.

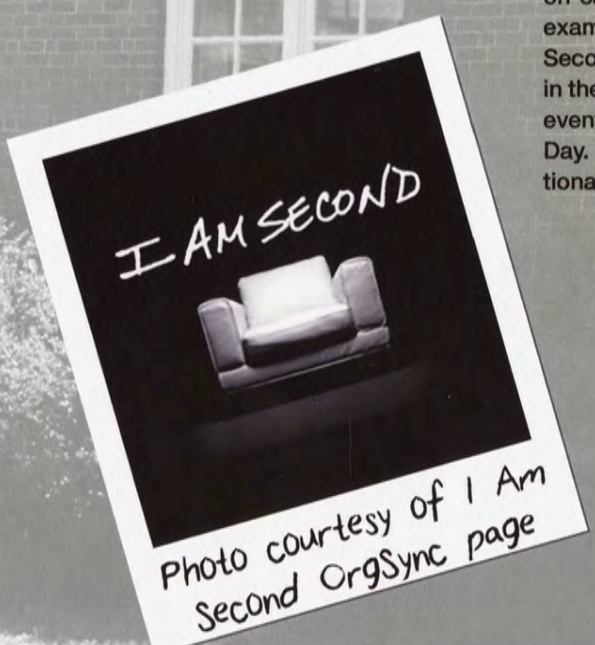


Photo courtesy of I Am Second OrgSync page

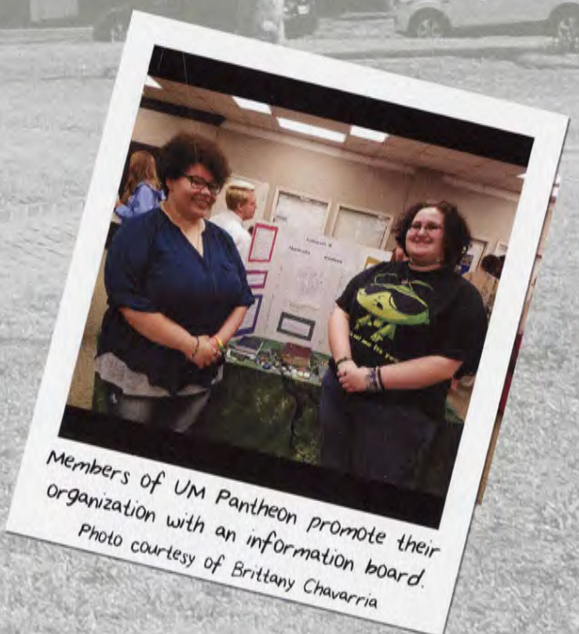
MONTEVALLO CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

The Montevallo Christian Athletes, also known as MCA, welcomes all denominations of Christians within the wide scope of athletic programs on campus. It is a medium through which students can develop, explore, and strengthen their faith with other students in similar positions while also exercising, socializing, and building leadership skills. Similar to Fellowship of Christian Athletes, MCA allows athletes to come together to foster their relationships and execute service projects that build them up as they continue on their faith journey, spreading the Word of God. In this evangelization, the members also strive to become better acquainted with students on campus, show them their example of Christ's love, and become better known to student athletes so that they too would want to join.

Photo courtesy of Montevallo Christian Athletes OrgSync page

UM PANTHEON

Initially known as the Pagan Society, the now UM Pantheon is new to the University of Montevallo this year. It was started by Joshua Love and some friends who "worship and believe on the pagan spectrum," but to be open to more students, the name changed to be more inclusive of religious minorities. The UM Pantheon educates students about various religious belief systems as it celebrates and promotes tolerance of them; prejudice against any faith is not accepted. In the spirit of equality, various holidays are celebrated, such as Wiccan festivities, in addition to weekly meetings and discussions. Along with this, the UM Pantheon also helps the community through service and by informing students about environmental issues. Love says, "Our goal is to foster an environment that is accepting and actively promotes different beliefs while also learning together how to live in harmony with each other."



Members of UM Pantheon promote their organization with an information board. Photo courtesy of Brittany Chavarria

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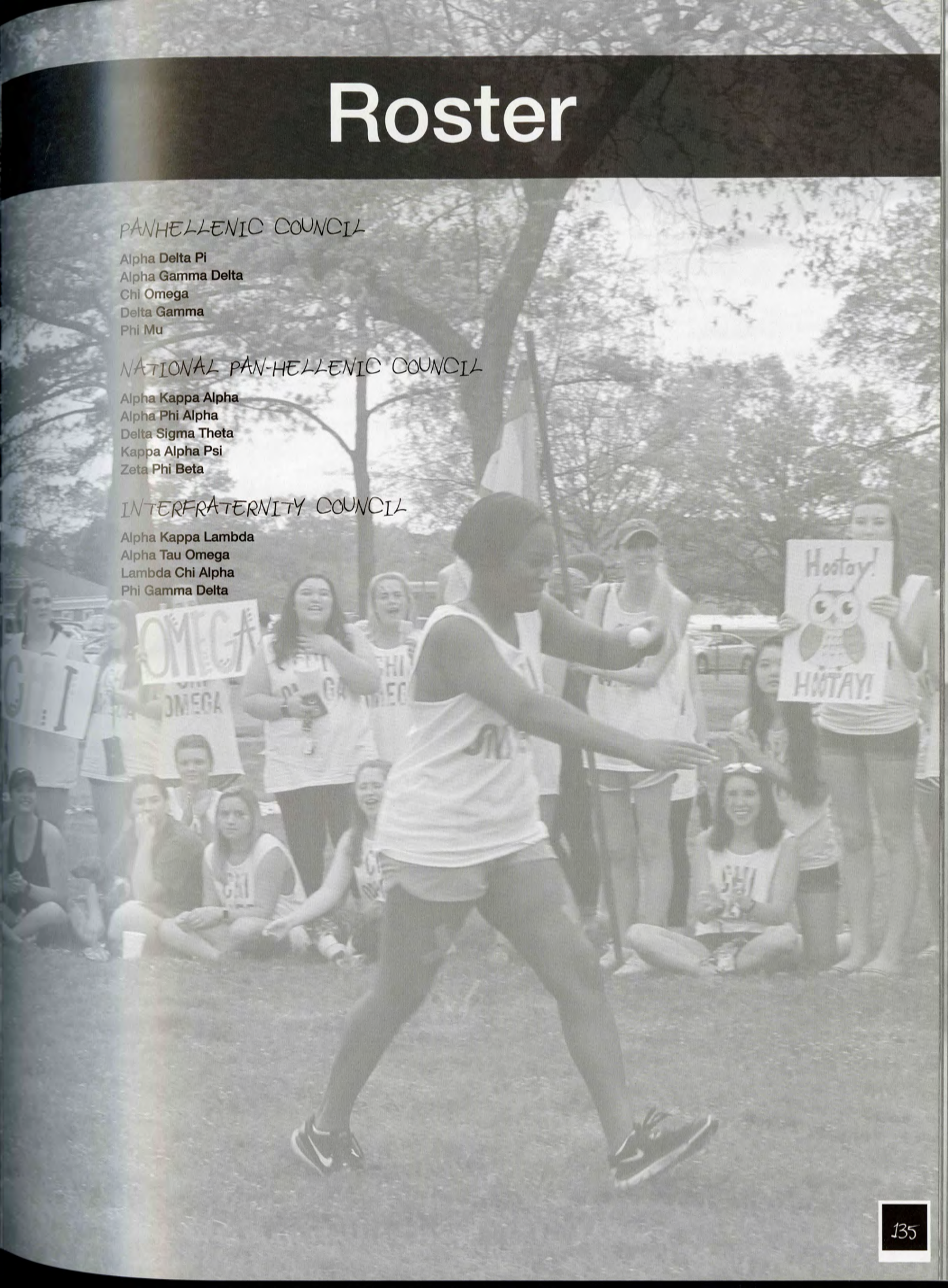
Roster



PANHELLENIC COUNCIL

Alpha Delta Pi
Alpha Gamma Delta
Chi Omega
Delta Gamma
Phi Mu

NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL

Alpha Kappa Alpha
Alpha Phi Alpha
Delta Sigma Theta
Kappa Alpha Psi
Zeta Phi Beta

INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

Alpha Kappa Lambda
Alpha Tau Omega
Lambda Chi Alpha
Phi Gamma Delta

SORORITY BID DAY

Recruitment is a three-day process that concludes with Bid Day. The first day divides the women into five groups, three Pi Chis each; Pi Chis are recruitment counselors, three from each sorority, who lead the women through the process and handle the potential members' concerns and questions. These leaders must avoid bias by dissociating from their sorority during recruitment so that they can truly answer questions without favoritism and help the recruits to feel comfortable. Former Pi Chi, Autumn Spangle says, "One important thing to know for anyone going through recruitment is that you should just get to know the girls you are talking to the best you can... You will find your home based on the connections you make, but most of the time your home isn't where you originally thought it would be."

During this first day, the women attend an "Open House" celebration for each organization, followed by their introduction to the sorority halls and members. These visits give the women the chance to ask questions and to get to know the members. The individuals choose their top four choices and are invited back the next day to up to four sororities parties. This second day, representing "Philanthropy," allows the women to learn more and narrow their choices down to two. After this, these two sororities can invite them to "Preference Parties," which are much more serious attempts at making connections with the recruits. Finally, the women prioritize their top two selections and wait for Bid Day that third night.

Gathered on the steps of Palmer Hall, the recruits are presented with the envelope containing their bid from one of their two choices. Lined up on Main Quad, the sororities cheer as the women open their bids and run to the sorority that extended its bid in order to accept their offer. Those who decline, go into Palmer to deny their bid. The individual sororities hold their own specific celebrations with their new members after recruitment and Bid Day. Sophomore Christina Patterson recalls, "My favorite memory of Bid Day was when I came home to ADPi. I did not know what to expect in the hours after, but I was greeted by all my sisters, and we played ice breaker games and ate hot dogs at our "Baseball" themed Bid Day party. [Another favorite] was singing karaoke with my future little at our Rock Star themed party."

Claire Chesnut looks back on her experience, "I chose Chi Omega because of all the genuine conversations that I had with the girls during recruitment. I knew that Chi Omegas were the type of people that I wanted to surround myself with. I can truly be myself around every girl in Chi Omega, and I am so thankful for that. I know this is a sisterhood and bond that will last a lifetime."

Kiersten Hoffman with her new Little, Rebekah Hill

Overjoyed Chi Omegas welcome home their new sisters

Groups of sorority members surround their returning Pi Chis with hugs

ALPHA DELTA PI

The Zeta Delta chapter of Alpha Delta Pi, commonly referred to as ADPi, holds events like Whose Line Is It Anyway, Ronald's Amazing Race, Free Hot Chocolate Giveaways, Zaxby's spirit nights, time management workshops, LemonADPi, Karaoke Mixer, and ADPidol to entertain students on campus and to benefit their philanthropy, Ronald McDonald House Charities or RMHC, which helps temporarily house families nearby if they have sick children in hospitals. The most popular of these events is ADPidol, which consists of 2-minute performances by members of various Greek organizations; the event this year raised $650 for RMHC.

Recruiting and Marketing Vice President Savanna Rossman says, "ADPi has one of the closest sisterhood bonds that I have ever seen or experienced... We're always laughing and lifting one another up in the Zeta Delta chapter. I think our bond is what makes us the most unique. We live for each other."

Andria Thomas & Bailey Smith serve as Masters of Ceremonies at ADPidol

ALPHA GAMMA DELTA

Alpha Gamma Delta's president Charlotte Clare Wickersham claims that it is "more than your stereotypical sorority" with versatile members from all facets of campus life. The organization hosts events like intramural games, mixers, sisterhood events, and philanthropic events, specifically Lip Jam, to benefit Fighting Hunger, Full Plates Full Hearts Full Minds. This year's lip sync battle raised over $2,000 and prides itself on being the most popular philanthropy event on campus.

Wickersham believes that the sorority is special because "Alpha Gams have so many leaders around campus and are involved in so many extracurricular activities, such as SGA and College Night. This year our sister won Miss Montevallo. I think AGD has the 'girls next door.' We strive to be friendly and accepting!"

Alpha Gamma Delta 2016-2017

CHI OMEGA

Chi Omega 2016-2017

Originating in 1895, Chi Omega was the first at the University of Montevallo and is the largest women's fraternal organization on campus. UM's Tau Kappa chapter sponsors the Make-A-Wish Foundation as its philanthropy with their annual Color Me Chi O Run and their fall themed Owl-O-Ween Fun Run. Chi Omega also holds Swishes for Wishes, a basketball-themed event. In total, the members have raised over $10,000 in the past two semesters.

Aside from their academic success of having the top grades for the past five semesters, President Savannah Whitfield asserts, "What makes Chi Omega unique is that we are a very diverse group of women who come together to represent our values. We try everyday to implement our six purposes (friendship, personal integrity, service to others, academic excellence and intellectual pursuits, community and campus involvement, personal and career development) into our everyday lives."

DELTA GAMMA

Members of AKL show off their skills at Anchor Splash

Delta Gamma hosts events such as Anchor Splash in the fall and Dodge with DG in the spring for their philanthropy Service for Sight. The latter of which is a game of dodgeball open to any group that wants to participate, including athletic groups on campus. The former, DG's largest and most successful event, invites all campus organizations to compete in relay races and other aquatic activities. The event concludes with each each organization performing a synchronized swimming routine. The money raised from entry and spectator fees go directly to Service for Sight. President Kacy Sanders notes, "Delta Gamma is the only sorority that has their own independent philanthropic foundation. Through this foundation, Delta Gamma has founded four schools for children who are visually impaired to learn specialized skills."

Vice President of Social Standards Maria Hernandez says, "We try to make sure everyone still feels at home. The thing I love most is that if a sister is having a great or bad day, she has a sister there for help, even if they do not ask for it. That is what makes it feel like a true sisterhood... at the end of the day you know that DG will be there to lift you up."

PHI MU

Lead by the ideals of Love, Honor, and Truth, the Kappa Chi chapter of Phi Mu holds events like the Grand Slam softball tournament, the Annual Corn-Hole Tournament, and Pie a Phi Mu. During Pie a Phi Mu, students pay money to pie members of the sorority outside of Farmer Hall, and the proceeds go to the Children's Miracle Network. In charge of Alumnae Relations, Sydney Zari says, "Many of our members volunteer directly at the Children's Miracle Network Hospital located in downtown Birmingham. After our members graduate, some of them are actually employed through the hospital. It's such an amazing thing to raise money for a philanthropy throughout college then transition into adulthood as an employee."

Functioning as the President in the 2015-16 academic year, senior Kari Butenschon recalls, "While there are so many different hobbies, personalities and beliefs [within the sorority], we all continue to respect and love each other no matter what... There was never a moment that I didn't feel at 'home.' There isn't a woman in that organization that will not welcome you with open arms and that is what makes me so proud to be an alumni member of Phi Mu!"

Krysten Richards pies a Phi Mu

NPHC NEW MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

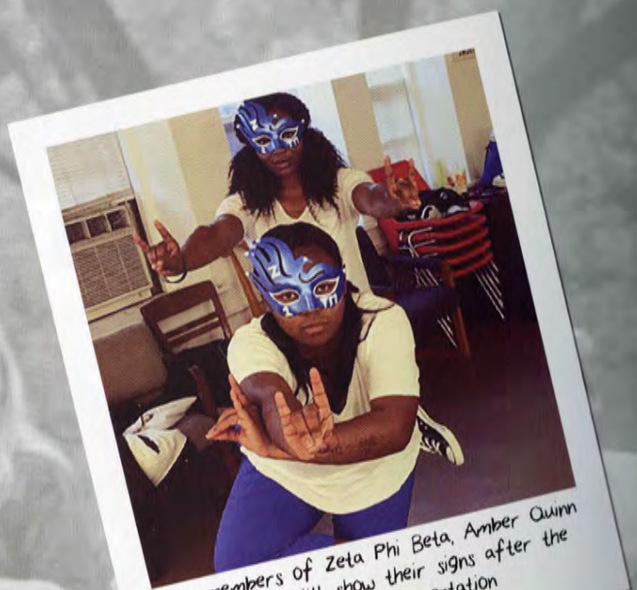
The NPHC sororities and fraternities at the University of Montevallo follow a different recruitment process than other organizations on campus. This process is characterized by selection, education, and initiation. NPHC organizations do not have "Bid Days."

The NPHC organizations on the UM campus participate in New Member Presentations, which April Lee, president of Delta Sigma Theta, defines as a "an insight on who we are and what we do." Recruitment consists of interest meetings in a formal environment, because the experience is similar to a business interview. These are all done individually for each organization.

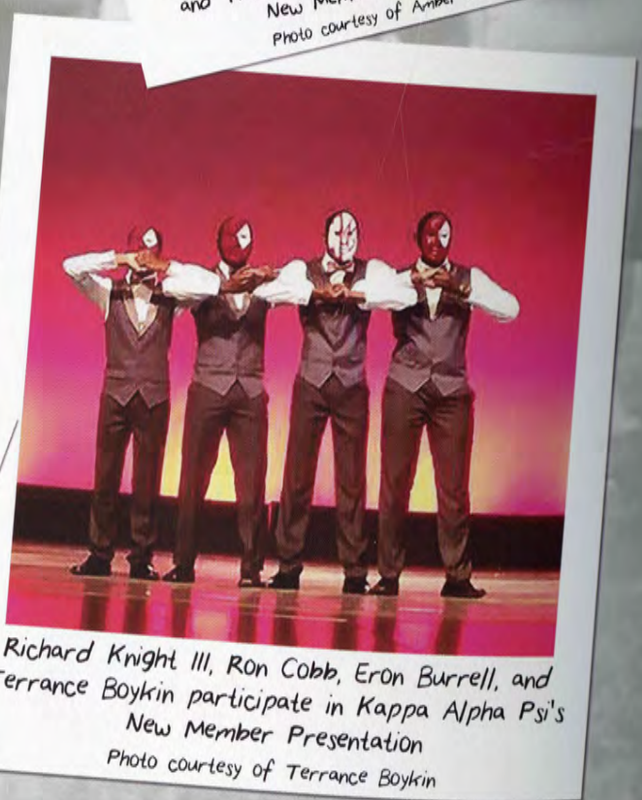
This process is followed by each sorority and fraternity's specific traditions, but Lee explains that "the intake process is kept secret from the public because it is something important and sacred to [each sorority and fraternity]." These differences foster the organizations' individualities and lay their foundation for sister- and brotherhoods; the private nature of these ceremonies give the new members a common ground, a shared secret, and a sense of intimacy with their peers.

The NPHC sororities and fraternities also have unique ways in which they present their new members following their intake processes. President of NPHC and AKA at the University of Montevallo Alaynna Pruitt explicates, "Our biggest social event has to be our New Member Presentations. People tend to find our presentations interesting and entertaining. We do, indeed, put a lot of time and hard work into them and are always very excited to introduce our members to our campus in a very fun way. This is usually where we get our biggest crowd turn out."

Pruitt goes on to add, "The culture of all of the NPHC organizations is very unique, in general. From the way we handle our membership intakes to the performances we have; it does make the experience in any of our organizations one of a kind. Most importantly, once you become a member, you are a member for life. You will always have the opportunity to serve your community as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, or any other NPHC organization."



New members of Zeta Phi Beta, Amber Quinn and Tianna Hill, show their signs after the New Member Presentation
Photo courtesy of Amber Quinn



Richard Knight III, Ron Cobb, Eron Burrell, and Terrance Boykin participate in Kappa Alpha Psi's New Member Presentation
Photo courtesy of Terrance Boykin

Alpha Kappa Alpha's new members from their fall recruitment with Brandi Taylor, former membership chair and alumna
Photo courtesy of Alaynna Pruitt

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA

The Mu Mu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, or AKA, volunteers with local and national organizations under their 2014-2018 Launching New Dimensions of Service. This project targets five areas: Educational Enrichment, Health Promotion, Family Strengthening, Environmental Ownership, and Global Impact. This NPHC organization holds events for social, service, sisterhood, leadership training, fitness, informational forums, and health screenings. President Alaynna Pruitt says, "I would define our most successful event by one of our most meaningful service projects. Last year, we were able to donate a picnic table to the Boys and Girls Club of Montevallo and spend the afternoon playing with the children. Be it that we have always been a fairly small chapter compared to other Greek organizations in other councils and within AKA, we were very proud and grateful to be able to donate this to them. We also had an amazing time doing fun activities with the kids... I feel like my chapter being small can also make us unique. You can more easily get to know your sisters on a personal level and, hopefully, be able to build closer bonds."

Alpha Kappa Alpha members 2016-2017
Photo courtesy of Alaynna Pruitt

AKA's spring initiates with President Alaynna Pruitt
Photo courtesy of Alaynna Pruitt

ALPHA PHI ALPHA

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. originated as a minority student study and support group founded on the principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity. This NPHC fraternity strives to emphasize academic excellence for its members and the importance of recognizing and illuminating the educational, economic, political, and social injustices faced by African-Americans. Alpha Phi Alpha hosts events like the March of Dimes Car Wash, game nights, the Voter Registration Drive, the Miss Black and Gold Pageant and Scholarship, step shows, and the Alpha Auction. The last of which is an annual event to spread the word about the March of Dimes, the fraternity's philanthropy, and the importance of donating to the nonprofit to lower premature births and birth defects.

Looking back on his experience in Alpha Phi Alpha, President Nick Preston says, "No matter the situation, I always have a brother I can call on in the time of need. Being a member of this great organization has granted me opportunities that I will forever cherish... As Alpha men, we hold high our aims of mainly or Manly Deeds, Scholarship, and Love for All Mankind. We will ensure that the work of Alpha, will always be done now and forever."

Alpha Phi Alpha's Alpha Auction supports their philanthropy, the March of Dimes Foundation

Photo courtesy of montevalloalphas Instagram

DELTA SIGMA THETA

Delta Sigma Theta and Fiji teamed up to host this year's Big Wheel Derby

Chartered in 1977 at the University of Montevallo, the Nu Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was the first black lettered organization to be established on the UM campus. For philanthropy, this NPHC sorority supports five programmatic thrusts, or event goals. These thrusts, with a corresponding example, are Economic Development (coupon workshop), Educational Development (reading Dr. Seuss books at Montevallo Elementary), Physical and Mental Health (Annual HIV Testing Drive with the Nurse's Office), Political Awareness and Involvement (Voter Registration Drive), and International Awareness and Involvement (Delta Means Change Week). Member Jasmyne Ray recalls Delta Week's Big Wheel Derby cohosted with Phi Gamma Delta; Ray "helped conduct the event" and enjoyed "watching her sorority sisters attempt to ride the big wheels." Some other events are the INSTA-Grammys, scavenger hunts, and Suits for Seniors to give some graduating seniors money to buy professional clothing.

President April Lee says, "I think what makes us different is our diversity within our organization. We all come from different backgrounds, have different majors, and very different interests, but we are able to come together and handle sorority business... and do what Deltas do best and that's participate in Service. We are a service sorority and we pride ourselves on our willingness to get involved and serve others the best we can... To be a Delta one must have a heart of service."

KAPPA ALPHA PSI

Kappa Alpha Psi members 2016 - 2017
Photo courtesy of Terrance Boykin

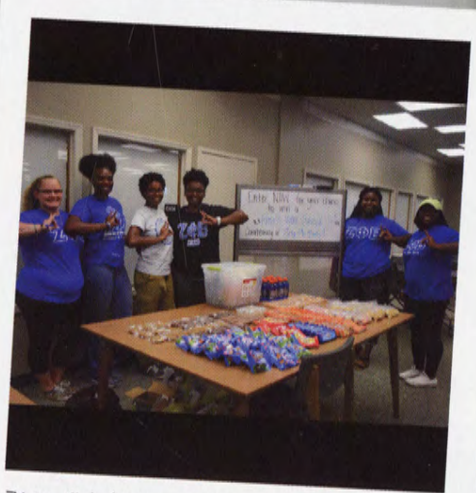
With over 100 years of achievement, the Xi Upsilon Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi is part of the NPHC. As Vice Polemarch Eron Burrell says, "Members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. are achievers displayed in the public eye that hold a bond for life." Kappa Alpha Psi supports St. Jude Children's Research as its philanthropy and holds events like their probate. During the probate, masked recruits come onto the stage to reveal their new affiliation with the brotherhood.

Member Terrance Boykin recalls, "What makes our fraternity so unique and different is the brotherhood itself because of the bond that we have amongst each other. We also encourage each other to achieve in whatever human endeavor we're striving for in life. I think that's what's so special about our fraternity. I would like to add that we do not discriminate and we are one of the most successful fraternities in the world."

ZETA PHI BETA

Founded in 1920, Zeta Phi Beta is an NPHC sorority with an emphasis on the development of the mind, body, and spirit of all people regardless of their circumstances. The Zeta Phi Beta philanthropy is their international program ZHOPE (Zeta Helping Other People Excel); the University of Montevallo's Tau Pi chapter's also has more local efforts with the March of Dimes, Eldercare, and ZNEF (Zeta National Education Foundation). The organization holds events like fundraisers, the Zeta Car Wash, study nights, Game Night, Nutrition and Wellness Forum, All That 90s Party, Neo-Soul, and their most successful event the Greek Unity Step Show.

President Heather Sprowl says, "I think Zeta's uniqueness stems from our four ideals: Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood. While the first three are common among most sororities, the fourth serves as a calling to be the best possible version of yourself. It is a constant reminder that is supported by the other ideals and every single one of your sisters."



Zeta Phi Beta members provide snacks to students studying for finals during their Study Night

FRATERNITY BID DAY

Formal recruitment, a four day process, always takes place the week of Labor Day. During this whole process, no one withholds their association with their respective organization. Thus, there is no Pi Chi equivalent for the fraternities. IFC President Dakota Patrick recalls that the officers discuss "all four fraternities with a positive attitude and continue to encourage guys to keep open minds and choose what is best for them!" The first day, Tuesday, consists of Open House during which Potential New Members, or PNMs, spend 20 minutes with each Greek organization to meet and mingle with the members of each chapter. The second day, Smokers, is a more formal version of the open house, allowing PNMs to listen to various alumni and ask them questions. Thursday brings the Event Night; each chapter hosts its own events during this time. Lambda Chi Secretary Androw Argote remembers his favorite part of recruitment as the time "where [the PNMs] got to choose an activity to go to. I went tubing with Lambda Chi, and it was nice to hang out in a less formal sense."

Thursday night, the men find out that they have been given a bid, but the specific organization is not disclosed until the next day. Patrick says, "This is my favorite night because it gets the brothers and the PNM's out of the formal setting of recruitment. On midnight of that Thursday begins what we call Bid Silence. At this time, no PNM or active member can talk to each other almost at all with the exception of classes and other academic purposes."

Bid Day begins the following afternoon as the recruits arrive in the basement of Palmer Hall to receive their envelopes containing their bids from Student Life's Jenny Bell. Then, they proceed backstage where the men read their offers, choose their fraternity, sign that bid, and wait to be called to the stage. Once their name is called, each individual comes forward, approaching a table with hats that each represent a different fraternity, and he presents his choice by putting on the cap of his chosen organization.

Upperclassman Roosevelt Mendez recalls, "My favorite part of bid day was being welcomed off the stage by all the guys I now call brothers. It was an amazing feeling knowing that you were just welcomed into a brotherhood that would support you and help you make college a memorable experience... I chose FIJI because I felt an instant connection with those guys. From the day that I met some of them at Transfer Day, I knew they were the brothers for me. I had no intention of going Greek, but, after meeting them, it was something I wanted to be a part of. I also liked the fact that I would be a founding father of Phi Gamma Delta at UM. That was a big opportunity to be a part of history... FIJI was definitely one of the best decisions I made in my college career."

New members of Alpha Tau Omega at Fraternity Bid Day

Alpha Kappa Lambda's new initiates

New brothers of Phi Gamma Delta

ALPHA KAPPA LAMBDA

Alpha Kappa Lambda, or AKL, holds its annual "These Hands Don't Hurt" to raise money for the Shelby County Safe House and awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault. New this year, Alpha Kappa Slambda is a 3-on-3 basketball tournament to raise money and awareness for Cystic Fibrosis. The fraternity also puts on events to raise awareness about suicide and its prevention.

Social Chair and Brotherhood Chair Kel Easterling believes that AKL is truly unique because of "how we stand true to our values. We pray after every event and intramural game, thanking the Lord for everything He has given us and for keeping everyone safe in the activities. Our motto "Alethia Kai Logos," meaning The Truth and The Word, is not just something painted on our hall. The motto and our five ideals, Judeo-Christian Principles, Leadership, Scholarship, Loyalty, and Self-support keep us doing what is right and keeping each other responsible, whether it be getting on each other about grades, helping each other with personal problems, or, in my case, taking me to the hospital to get stitches at midnight. People see us as just a fraternity but what makes us unique is how much we care about each other and our community."

AKL Brothers enjoy fresh shellfish at the Interfraternity Council Crawfish Boil
Photo courtesy of Nick Norris

ALPHA TAU OMEGA

Profits from Alpha Tau Omega's kickball tournament go toward their philanthropy "Just Keep Smiling"
Photo courtesy of Alpha Tau Omega's Facebook Page

Arriving at UM in the 1960s, Alpha Tau Omega, or ATO, hosts events like Family Day, Viking Party, a Risky Business party, a Beach Volleyball Tournament to benefit the National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation, the "Kicking for Smiles" Kickball Tournament to raise money for Just Keep Smiling Foundation, and the Greek Triad Party. President Blake Norris explains, "Our kickball event used to benefit the Wounded Warriors Foundation, but, this year, we found out one of our brothers' family members was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. His family started the Just Keep Smiling Foundation [to help others with the disease], so we decided to help the family and donate all the money to their organization."

ATO is the only organization on campus with a house, yet Norris adds, "It's not about the house, it's about the brothers. I truly believe we have the tightest brotherhood on campus. We hold one another accountable to strive to be the best leaders we can be on campus." ATO member Kalen Brooks likewise says, "I always try to get to know the new students who just started at Montevallo and show them a group of guys that he could call his brothers... To me, ATO is unlike any of the organizations on campus, because we value brotherhood above all else which is something that made me want to become an ATO."

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA

New members of Lambda Chi Alpha at Fraternity Bid Day

Lambda Chi Alpha is a UM fraternity that holds events such as selling Boston Butts to locals, Watermelon Fest, and Pumpkin Fest. The last of which is an annual gathering filled with seasonal mini games at Orr Park, cohosted with Alpha Delta Pi to raise hundreds of pounds of nonperishable food items for their philanthropies, Ronald McDonald House Charities and Feeding America.

Functioning as High Kappa, or Fraternity Educator, and as the Chaplain of the Executive Committee, Chris Pattillo says, "[What is unique about Lambda Chi Alpha is that] our organization does not have pledges. We have associate members who enter with all the rights and privileges of an active brother... Lambda Chi Alpha is an amazing experience, and I actively seek to have others enjoy the same benefits I have!" In charge of planning special ceremonies, Ryan Orso similarly claims that what makes Lambda Chi Alpha special is "just how genuine every 'I love you' is between brothers. It feels unique."

PHI GAMMA DELTA

Phi Gamma Delta, or Fiji, is newly chartered in October this year, becoming a chapter and adapting to these new rules from the previous Colony rules. President Jalen Thompson recalls, "It's definitely hard being the first chapter president because you want to set a good precedent for future presidents and also start the Chapter off on a good foot... This year has been a struggle, but, because of the persistence and the dedication of my brothers, it has been worthwhile and highly successful... It's great to be Greek, and it's an honor to be Phi Gam! I love the values we stand for: Friendship, Knowledge, Service, Morality, and Excellence..."

Fiji hosts events such as their new iVMA which raised about $1,000 for the United Service Organization and their 3rd Annual Big Wheel Derby, a Mario Kart style race with adult tricycles and that raised $750 for the USO. Big Wheel Derby Emcee Brandon Boyd recollects, "There was quite a bit of bumping into each other and the contestants would often lose control of the big wheels which was pretty funny at times. Another highlight was giving the winner of the event, ATO, a $25 check for a philanthropy of their choice." Recording Secretary and Choreographer Kahlil Kyles says, "The most rewarding part of being in Fiji is being loved and cared for on a whole other scale.... I'm truly happy to be a Phi Gam! I don't know what I'll do without the guys."

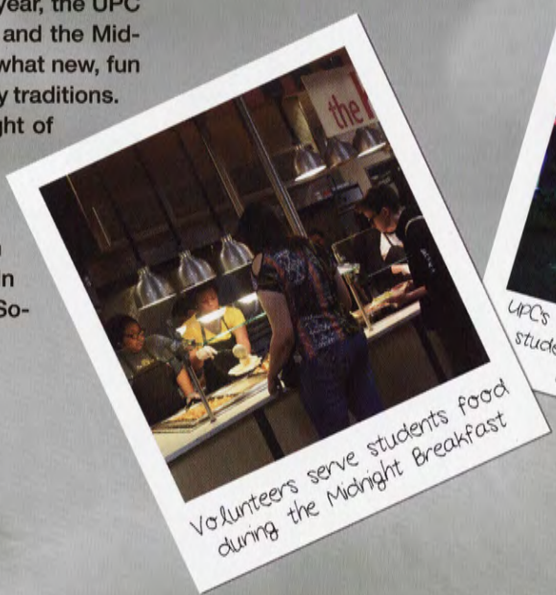
IFC President Russell Alicea ladles spicy beans at their Chili Cook Off, won this year by Fiji

SPECIAL INTERESTS

149	University Program Council & Environmental Club
150	Active Minds & Astronomy Club
151	Montevallo Organization of Gaming & Chess Club
152	Fighting Falcons & UM Exercise Science Club
153	Bass Anglers Association & UM Club Volleyball
154	Phi Boota Roota & Sigma Alpha Iota Colony
155	Student Alumni Ambassadors & S.T.A.T.
156	B.O.N.D. & URGE
157	Spectrum
158	UM College Republicans & Democrats
159	Young Americans for Liberty & UM Secular Student Alliance
160	UM Cosplay Association & UM Anime Club
161	Korean Culture Club & Montevallo Masters
162	UM NAACP College Chapter & Amnesty International
163	Montevallo Students for Life & Best Buddies
164	UM Film Club & Harry Potter Club
165	Sherlock Holmes Literary Society & Whovian Society

UNIVERSITY PROGRAM COUNCIL

The University Program Council, or UPC, plans events that are free to students throughout the year. Every year, the UPC puts on the Back to School Bash, Bingo for Books, and the Midnight Breakfast. Members suggest and help decide what new, fun events will be brought to campus along with the yearly traditions. UPC Coordinator Donnie Bennett says, "The highlight of the year is always Midnight Breakfast. It's always a good turnout for that event because of the usual free food and free goodies." The group also hosts Spring Fest, Films in Farmer, Trivia Night, Relaxation Station, Cokes and Strokes, Movies on Main, Drive-In Movies, and guests such as the band Underground Social Club and Flexible Comedy's Jonathan Burns.



Volunteers serve students food during the Midnight Breakfast

UPC's Paint Party involved spraying students with paint that glowed under the blacklights

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

The Environmental Club advertises sustainability on campus through campaigns, guest speakers, film showings, field trips, and service projects such as helping in the garden and cleaning up local natural spots. The Environmental Club holds many events; to name a few: Take Back the Tap, Campus Campout, Southern Exposure Film Screening, Water Monitor Certification, ValloCycle Cleanup, the Annual Plant Sale, Earth Fest, and various workshops. Earth Fest gives a chance for students and locals to make crafts, have a clothing swap, listen to music, eat free food, and learn about environmental organizations in the area, such as Cahaba Environmental Center, Alabama Wildlife Center, and Alabama Environmental Council.

EClub members have upcycled blank thrift store t-shirts by putting their logo on them

Environmental Club's Haley OBannon presents information at Earth Fest

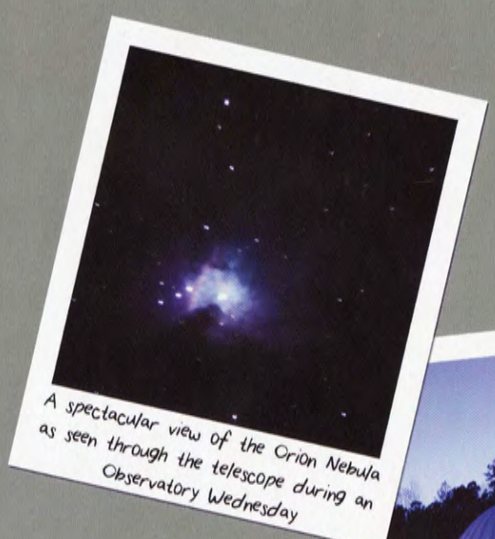
Legacy the falcon makes an appearance at Earth Fest

ACTIVE MINDS

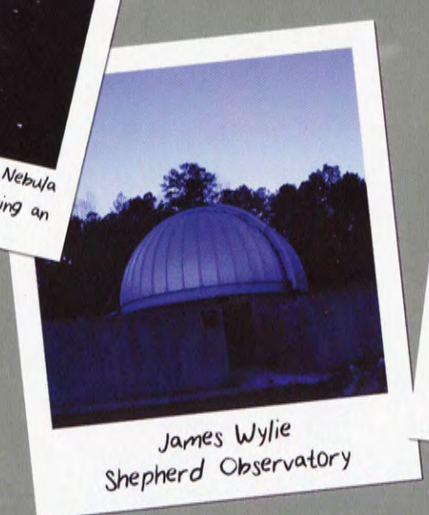
Active Minds teaches both members and peers on campus about mental health, disorders, and treatment options. It aims to reduce the flawed ideas about mental health with education. It does so with giving and promoting answers that properly inform the student body about mental health and its treatments. This year, Active Minds executes the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Out of Darkness Walk that both spread awareness about the issue of suicide and raises money in order to save lives in the future. This event is done across various cities, but for Active Minds, it takes place in Heardmont Park.

Photo courtesy of Active Minds Facebook page

ASTRONOMY CLUB



A spectacular view of the Orion Nebula as seen through the telescope during an Observatory Wednesday

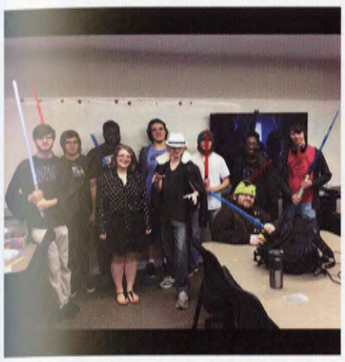


James Wylie Shepherd Observatory

Astronomy Club members view the star map through a red screen in order to protect their night vision

The Astronomy Club, meeting at James Wylie Shepherd Observatory with a state of the art telescope, promotes science and math through astronomy. In doing so, members learn about theory, the configuration of the sky, and specific bodies that they can see. Every few weeks, the club meets at the observatory to use the telescope and experience a laser-guided tour of the night sky. Sometimes, members also use the solar telescope to see the surface of the sun or listen to a speaker in Harman Hall. This year, the 4,000 square foot Condrey Garden with ADA paths and 300 plants is completed with its own gravity-fed irrigation sourced from a DC solar-powered well and pump. Advisor, Dr. Sterner "[hopes] that it will lead to expanded daytime use of the Observatory complex."

MOG



MOG members at Star Wars night before hosting a lightsaber battle

The Montevallo Organization of Gaming, or MOG, is a medium for gamers across campus to make friendships and play different types of games together. Some of the games are miniature modeling and others are role-playing, but all types are welcome and encouraged in the group. Students, staff, and faculty members and non-members alike are all welcome to come play games, including any from the game closet. Also within this club is the new Virtual Reality at the University of Montevallo, or VRUM. Members from all facets of MOG come together to put on events like Games in the Library, PokéParty, Star Wars Night, and their annual philanthropy Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.

At the PokéParty, MOG officers sell Pokémon that they made during their Perler Bead Nights

CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club welcomes all levels of ability, from learning how to play to advancing their expertise within the game, for weekly practice in order to prepare for various competitions or just to have a great time playing the game. The group also takes time to volunteer through Chess in the Library at the Parnell Library. For the second summer, the Chess Club holds the Falcon Chess Invitational, a chess competition for the top young chess players in the state of Alabama. The group also hosts their first chess tournament for current UM students, the Falcon Chess Open, which features four rounds of timed chess

William Felch & Gray Lackrey play each other during the first round of the tournament

The first Falcon Chess Open results in a three-way tie between Gray Lackrey, Jackson Kennedy, & William Felch seen here sharing a Lego knight piece trophy

MOG photo credits: Cathlena Martin
Chess Club photo credits: Scott Varagona

FIGHTING FALCONS

Supported by the Student Activity Center, the Fighting Falcons encourages the student body to actively support the athletic programs on campus by attending and cheering. The group also assists with the planning and organization of the athletic events that happen on campus. For example, the Fighting Falcons puts on Midnight Madness in addition to the halftime competitions at the games on campus. The Fighting Falcons have the main goal of increasing student turnout at games and involvement with the advocacy of the athletics program. One way that they accomplish this incentive is through a system where students who attend a certain number of games or events in support of the UM sports can win prizes. President Alice Copland says, "I like being able to see improvements of participation at home games and meeting new people every game! I would say the highlight was when we hit 300 users of the Fighting Falcons App as that was our goal."

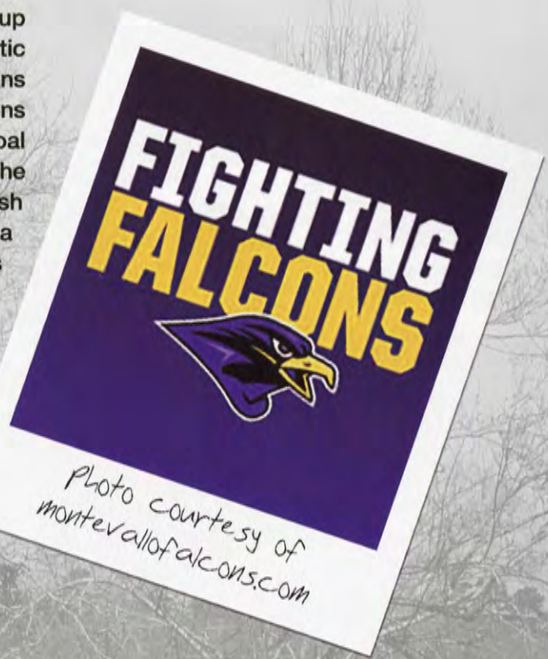


Photo courtesy of montevallofalcons.com

UM EXERCISE SCIENCE CLUB

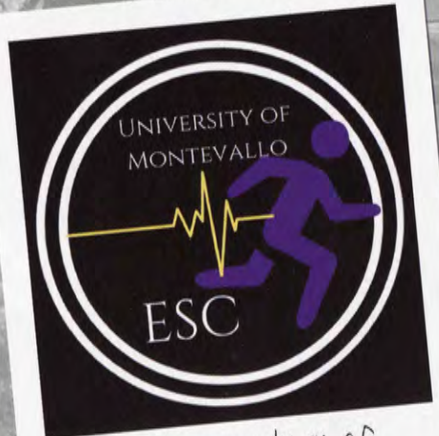


Photo courtesy of Marlee Webb

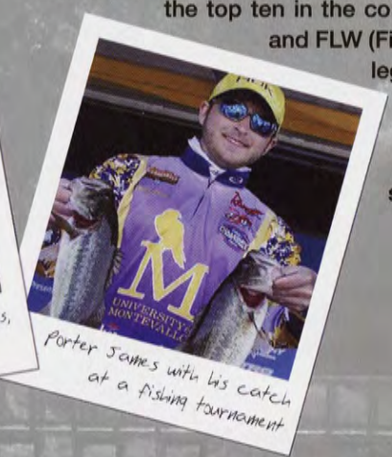
The UM Exercise Science Club, new to campus, meets weekly to plan ahead and have discussions relevant to the science of exercise and nutrition. One event that the group assists with is the Montevallo Kids Easter Egg Hunt during which members hide and help find eggs with the kids. In the summer, some members also help with the university's preview days for high schools. In the future, the club intends to have community service and health promotion events, like volunteering at hospitals and presenting research at scientific conferences. Dr. Curtis Fennell, the faculty advisor says, "Many of the exercise and nutrition science students are pro-active and ambitious individuals who seek to help others and develop themselves professionally. Therefore, the highlight was students coming together to form this club which displays their attitude of altruism and their goals of future success in their careers."

BASS ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

The Bass Anglers Association is for all levels of bass fishermen that want to improve and grow their love of the sport. Though members do not have to have a boat in order to join and participate, they must maintain a GPA of 2.0 in order to compete on the team. This group strives to reach their goal of finishing in the top ten in the country in the BASS, BOAT US, and FLW (Fishing League Worldwide) college championships. They also attend various USA Bass Tournaments to compete and improve their fishing skills

Jarrett Brown, J.T. Russell, Chase Baker, Brady Vernon, Tyler Harless & Ryne Mills

Tyler Howard, Ryan Baker, Chase Grubbs, Zach Herger & John Caleb Turner



Porter James with his catch at a fishing tournament

UM CLUB VOLLEYBALL

New to campus this year, UM Club Volleyball is open to all current students, faculty, and staff. The athletic group meets every Wednesday in Myrick Gym in order to practice their skills in the game. In addition, UM Club Volleyball also hosts events like the Men's Volleyball Club Tournament.

Photo courtesy of Roosevelt Mendez

Bass Anglers photo credits: William Crawford

PHI BOOTA ROOTA

Phi Boota Roota is a professional percussion fraternity that is open to all full-time students, both male and female, who play percussion for the university or a band sponsored by Phi Boota Roota. Members must participate in the Membership Education Process, a portion of the initiation into the group, at which point, participation and attendance are required. President of Phi Boota Roota Gage Thomas says, "We aim to teach, learn, and instill brotherhood through the art of percussion." This is done through regular meetings and events such as Drum Circle, Brotherhood in Percussion, percussion concerts, bake sales/fundraisers, and drum clinics.

Photo courtesy of Phi Boota Roota OrgSync page

SIGMA ALPHA IOTA COLONY

Sigma Alpha Iota Colony, also known as SAI, is composed of female students who have finished at least one music course, and this program gives these women connections to each other in their common interests and studies. SAI members work with faculty, administration, campus and local groups, music professionals, and patrons. The members of SAI are also eligible for scholarships, loans, and awards because of their musical talent and their affiliation with the SAI. The group puts on events focused on not only socializing and bonding between members, but also service and professional development for others in the community.

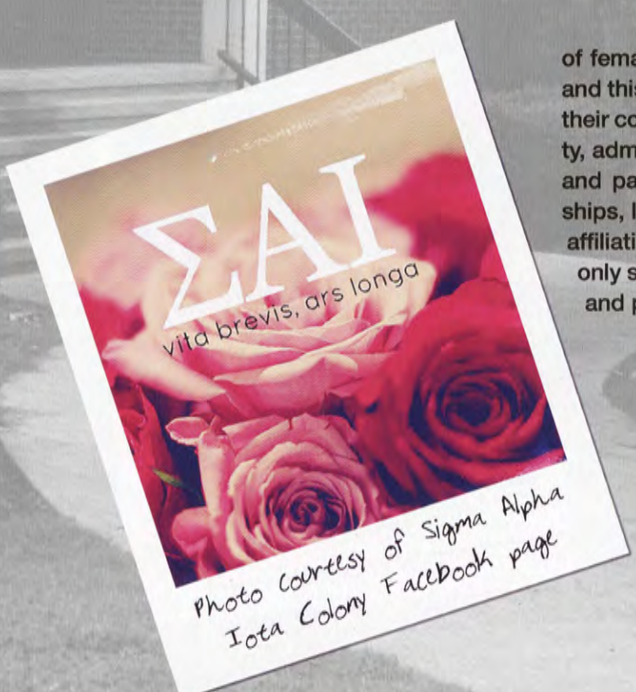


Photo courtesy of Sigma Alpha Iota Colony Facebook page

STUDENT ALUMNI AMBASSADORS

The Student Alumni Ambassadors unite students, faculty, staff, and alumni by promoting school festivity, encouraging participation in events and philanthropies on campus, and supporting the Office of Alumni Affairs, the University of Montevallo National Alumni Association (UMNAA) and Junior Alumni Board. Ambassadors must be full-time students who have completed their freshman year, hold a 2.75 GPA, have communication skills, and complete the interview process. The students must also attend monthly meetings and work at alumni events, like AlumniClub events, Homecoming events, graduation receptions, Olympics Day, and Founders' Day after receiving mandatory training.

Photo courtesy of Student Alumni Ambassadors OrgSync page

S.T.A.T.

Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow is a new group that aims to inspire relationships and philanthropy amongst future alumni through positive experiences on campus. Also known as S.T.A.T., this group creates opportunities for students to become more involved on campus and enhance their relationships with their peers and alumni. These experiences are also chances to develop and better the students' leadership skills while giving back to the local community. Members meet weekly to plan for events and look for sponsors in addition to helping with orientation days and meeting with faculty and staff for various reasons. Newly partnered with the Montevallo Bookstore, S.T.A.T. also helps to fundraise for the Food Pantry and the Student Emergency Fund, the latter of which gives students aid in finishing their education when faced with unfortunate circumstances, unexpected financial crisis, or other emergencies. They also hand out popsicles before finals in order to bring awareness to their organization and their cause. Communications Chair and Fine Arts Chair Savannah Cleckler says, "As a member of this group the feeling of really making a difference in someone else's life really is the best part."

S.T.A.T members table outside of Farmer Hall after The Big Event

THE B.O.N.D.

The B.O.N.D, or Beauty of Natural Decision, is a group that deals with hair care, skin care, beauty tips, health care, etc. It holds events like Cookies and Cards, where students create cards for senior citizens while eating cookies, a Hair and Beauty DIY Event with demonstrations, and various panels. Some of the panels include: Girl Code concerning gender stereotypes, Body Image Open Discussion dealing with body shaming and self image, A Guy's Point of View about natural hair and dating and politics, and #TeamLightSkin V.S. #TeamDarkSkin discussing racial issues.

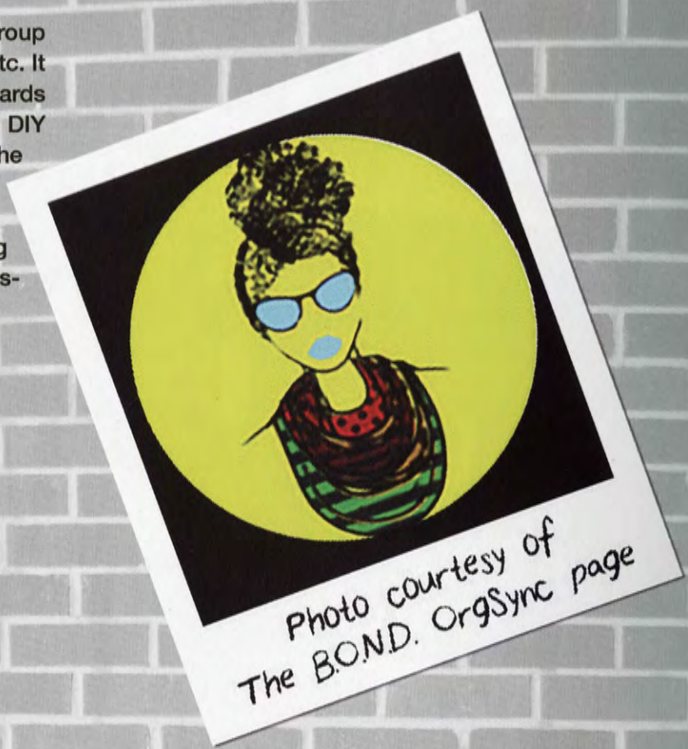


Photo courtesy of The B.O.N.D. OrgSync page

URGE

Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity, or URGE, is new to campus this year and open to all students. It advocates justice on the issues of reproduction, sexual health, and body image. URGE teaches the UM community along with its members about these matters so that they can actively support them across Alabama and on a larger scale. URGE encourages students to celebrate the human body and its natural functions and processes with the correct and unfiltered information. Students should be proud of their bodies and who they are within that skin, and URGE is an organization that fosters this idea through facts and discussions.

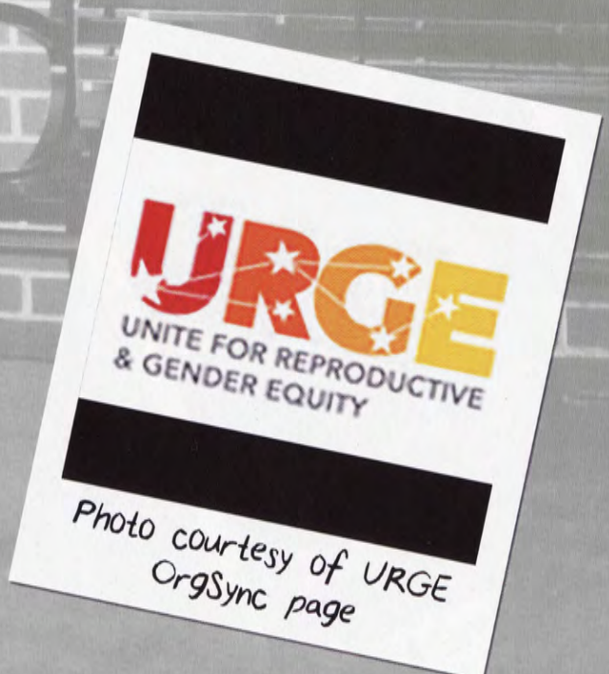


Photo courtesy of URGE OrgSync page

SPECTRUM

Members of Spectrum dance at the Spectrum Ball

Spectrum is a gender and sexuality alliance between students on campus, providing a safe and welcoming environment for students no matter their sexual orientation or gender identification. Spectrum encourages positive self image and self-concept in addition to promoting tolerance and understanding for all students. To help with this, the group protects the identities of its members by allowing them to remain anonymous and having both a public and private Facebook group. It is within these forums and meetings that Spectrum can plan its events, like movie nights, philanthropic events for Birmingham AIDS Outreach, panels, the Spectrum Ball, and Rethink Alabama during which Chris Countryman comes to discuss his plans as he campaigns to be the Governor of Alabama. The Spectrum Shoutout is another event that the group hosts where members can interact with students and promote positive discussion. Spectrum also partners with the university's Safe Zone Committee for some of its events. Member Erin Green recalls, "My personal favorite memory of Spectrum was taking my first trip to the Atlanta Pride Festival. It was an enlightening experience to be around so many people who understood my identity and celebrated it. I'd recommend it to all LGBT students, because I finally felt like I belonged somewhere and I got to see what an LGBT community is actually like."

The Spectrum Ball was held in the Bibb Graves Dance Studio

A panel answers anonymously submitted LGBT+ questions at the Spectrum Shoutout

UM COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

The College Republican Federation of the University of Montevallo aims to inform the student body, especially members, about the importance of voting and about Republican ideas and stances along with reasoning and explanations. It also supports the other College Republican Federations on other campuses in Alabama. In doing so, the organization hopes to grow the Republican Party members and their advocacy of the party itself as well as its candidates. To accomplish this, the organization puts on events like presentations from guest speakers, election parties, debates, voter registration drives, law and platform seminars, and attending the Alabama College Republicans State Convention.

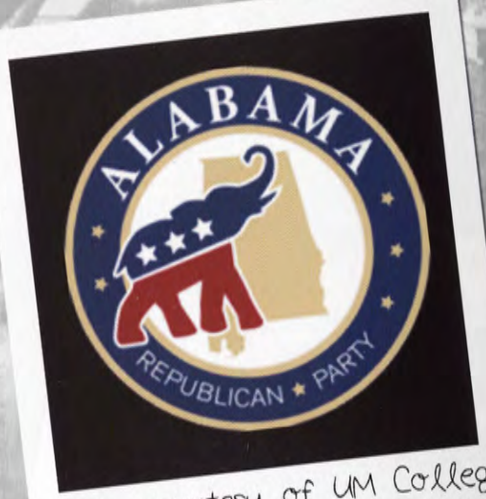


photo courtesy of UM College Republicans OrgSync page

UM COLLEGE DEMOCRATS

The Montevallo College Democrats, or MCD, advocates liberal ideals on the local and national levels. In addition to spreading these Democratic ideas, the MCD educates students on political processes and procedures to motivate them to exercise their voting rights and seek to become informed on the issues at hand. As part of the Alabama College Democrats, the organization is an official extension of the Democratic National Committee and hopes to inspire students to vote for the Democratic Party and its ideas. To promote this on campus, the MCD hosts events such as movie nights, bake sales, voter registration drives, and the College Democrats Ballot Review during which students can learn about the Shelby County ballot and voting processes.

photo courtesy of UM College Democrats OrgSync page

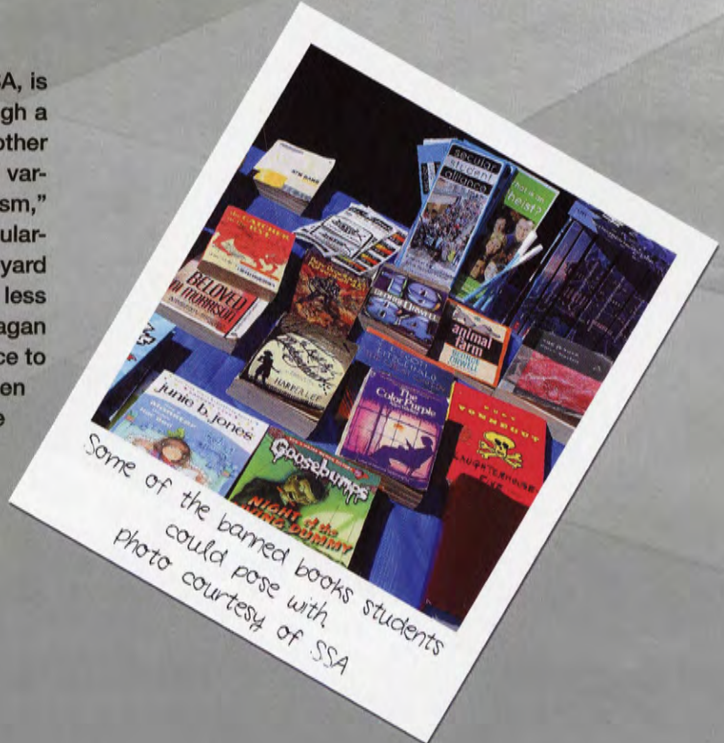
YOUNG AMERICANS FOR LIBERTY

photo courtesy of yaliberty.org

Young Americans for Liberty is an non-affiliated organization that is new to the University of Montevallo this year and open to all students on campus. Other chapters of Young Americans for Liberty have put on events concerning free speech, taxation, foreign policy, etc. Although unable to host any events this year, the Montevallo chapter hopes to do at least one activism event per semester in an effort to promote ideas of liberty across campus. As their goal is to advocate liberty itself, the Young Americans for Liberty does not endorse a single political party, but discussion of individual ideas. The group encourages like-minded students to come add to the discussion, but it also welcomes those who disagree to come and further the exploration of ideas by respectfully offering new perspectives. President Michael LaRiviere reflects on the year saying that the "highlight of the year would be getting recognized as an official student group on campus, so we are now able to get tables at orientation events, back to school bash, etc."

UM SECULAR STUDENT ALLIANCE

The UM Secular Student Alliance, also known as SSA, is open to all free-minded students who want to view life through a secular lens, such as agnostics, atheists, humanists, and other secular people. SSA meets to talk about current events and various topics of interest, such as "Supernatural and Secularism," "Education or Politics and Secularism," and "Death and Secularism." SSA also holds events like Banned Books Week, "Graveyard of the Gods" that provides information about forgotten and less common religions, and the 3rd Annual Samhain, which is a pagan new year celebration. During Samhain, students have a chance to learn about paganism and witchcraft. SSA member Erin Green recalls, "My highlight was meeting some of the people in the club, who were really nice and fun to engage with. I also enjoyed the intellectual conversations that we had. Since I'm majoring in English and Political Science, I love discussing topics with people and hearing their views about a subject matter and possibly debating them."



Some of the banned books students could pose with
photo courtesy of SSA

UM COSPLAY ASSOCIATION

The UM Cosplay Association helps students with an interest in cosplay to improve their skills and gives them a comfortable venue to exercise these skills. Every week, the group meets up to cosplay or talk with the members about techniques or events. Some of these events are guest workshops, panels, fundraising or collaborative events with the UM Anime Club and the UM Organization of Gaming, like Play-On Montevallo! For the fourth semester, this event raises money for the Children of Alabama Medical Center, UAB's Children's Hospital as students play a 24 hour gaming marathon with sponsor pledges or donations.

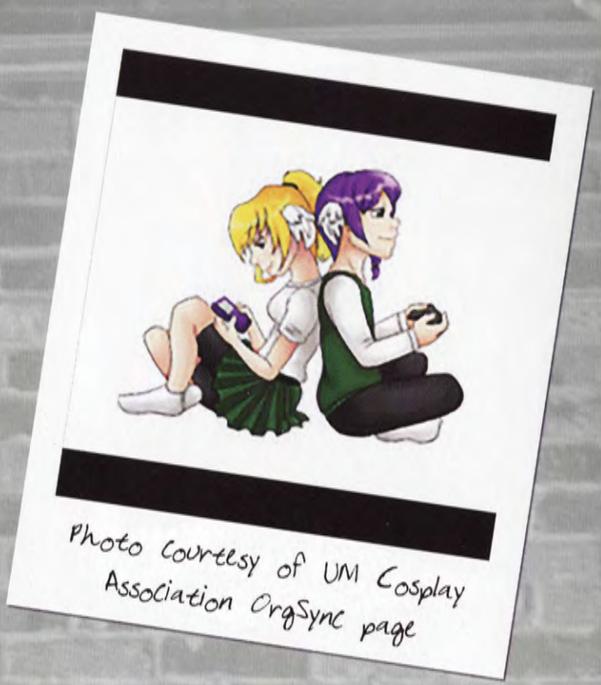


Photo courtesy of UM Cosplay Association OrgSync page

UM ANIME CLUB

The University of Montevallo Anime Club studies various types of Japanese graphic art and cinema along with manga, Otaku culture, and Japanese culture. At every meeting, the members watch episodes of two different anime shows, as voted on and decided in their previous session, and they discuss them. The UM Anime Club also puts on a Movie Marathon, Jeopardy with questions about various anime, and Play-On Montevallo! which is a charity event hosted with the UM Cosplay Association and the UM Organization of Gaming. During this event, students bring their own gaming equipment to play games for 24 hours with a sponsor or their own donations in an effort to raise at least $1,000 for the UAB's Children's Hospital.

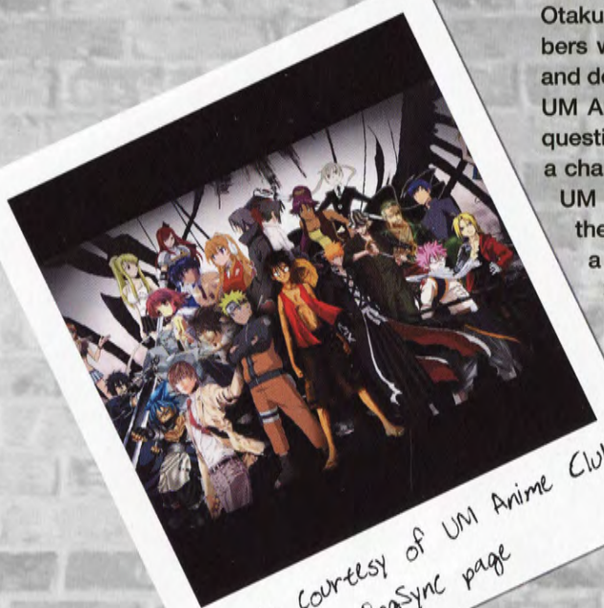


Photo courtesy of UM Anime Club OrgSync page

KOREAN CULTURE CLUB

The Korean Culture Club celebrates Korean art, politics, games, music, food, customs, language, cinema, and tradition, exploring new facets weekly. The group's main goal is to promote open-mindedness and interest in Korean culture. The Korean Culture Club holds its Fourth Annual Running Man. Open to all students, this event is a reference to the Korean show and tests physical and mental strengths. In addition, the club also honors Chuseok, the Korean Thanksgiving with traditional cuisine, and a K-Pop Dance Challenge competition.

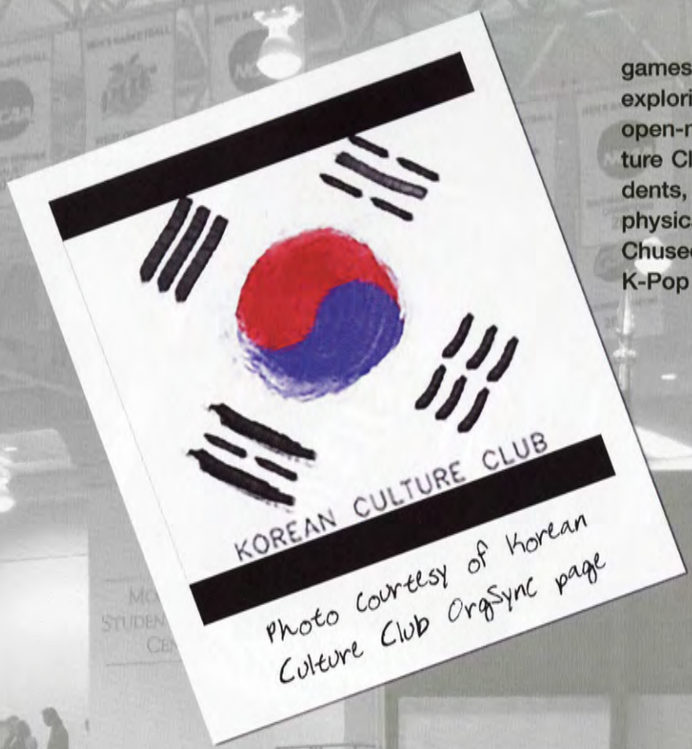
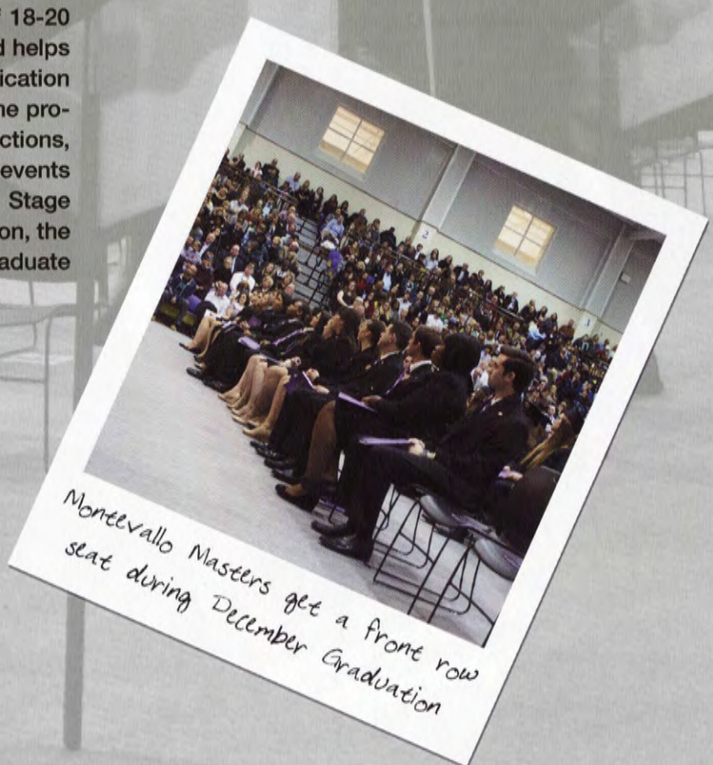


Photo courtesy of Korean Culture Club OrgSync page

MONTEVALLO MASTERS

The Montevallo Masters is a group composed of 18-20 students with leaderships skills in activities on campus and helps them to improve upon their leadership abilities. An application and series of interviews are required for acceptance into the program. These students represent the university at official functions, campus events, and statewide alumni functions. Specific events that the Montevallo Masters assist with are the Academic Stage Party, Commencement, Founders' Day, the Retiree Reception, the President's Holiday Reception at Flowerhill, and Undergraduate Research Day.



Montevallo Masters get a front row seat during December Graduation

UM NAACP COLLEGE CHAPTER

The UM NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is a medium through which students address communal and national injustices like police brutality, suffrage, and immigration. The group aims to educate students on various perspectives and to give them a voice on the issues that they are truly passionate about and affected by. In an effort to provide this education, the UM NAACP hosts a speaker who informs members and their peers about finances and planning ahead. This discussion alongside others inspires not only more voices, but more informed voices who can actively enact changes on both the smaller and larger scales.

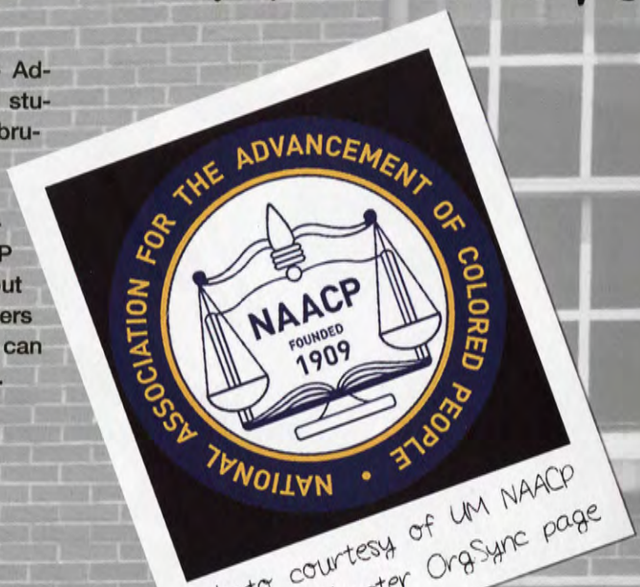


Photo courtesy of UM NAACP College Chapter OrgSync page

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International, or AI, is a grassroots group whose goal is to protect as many people as possible from all of the world's injustices. AI does not take religious or political perspectives into account, as all students are welcome and all people deserve justice. AI seeks to help all people in situations such as unfair trials, torture, execution, prisoners of conscience, lack of freedom and truth, and many more. AI has put on events like Write for Rights, where members of the community gather in the Farmer Hall Meeting Room to participate in the largest letter writing event that happens across the world.

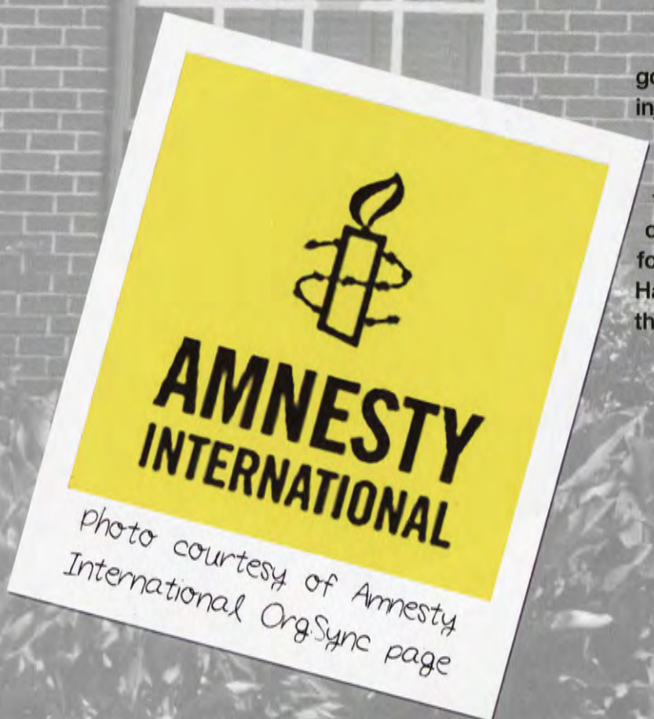


Photo courtesy of Amnesty International OrgSync page

MONTEVALLO STUDENTS FOR LIFE

photo courtesy of Montevallo Students for Life OrgSync page

The Montevallo Students for Life is one of the organizations that is new to campus this year. It was started by Freshman Ellen Campbell and serves to promote the sanctity of life by educating students on the modern infringements upon this right to life. The group aims to inform the student body on issues like embryonic stem cell research, abortion, and euthanasia. The Montevallo Students for Life presents other options and perspectives on these various issues by meeting to discuss them. This pro-life group also advocates parenting and currently pregnant students through the Pregnant on Campus Initiative.

BEST BUDDIES

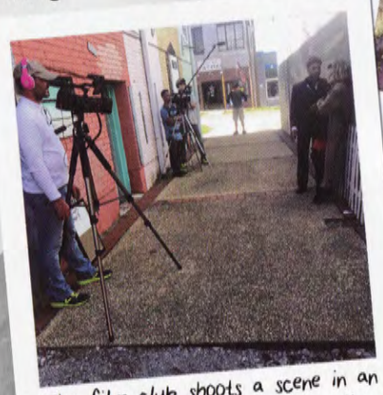
Best Buddies offers opportunities for friendship, employment, and skill development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, also called IDD, in the local area. The group's goal is "inclusion" because no matter an individual's disability, they are welcome to Best Buddies, and to raise awareness on campus about these various disabilities. This year, Best Buddies put on the Spread the Word to End the Word event, which shed light on the inappropriately mundane use of the "R" word to demean others. In another effort to raise awareness and participation in the Spread the Word to End the Word campaign, this event also features a raffle in which four students won prizes.

photo courtesy of Best Buddies OrgSync page

UM FILM CLUB

The Film Club is a collaborative group of both novice and expert students, professors, and professionals who come together to analyze film, learn about modern film-making, and create an original short film using campus talent. The group is composed of amazing individuals who function as writers, actors, technical crew, artists (storyboarding, props, and makeup), videographers, set and costume designers, and editors and create various types of films, from short films and documentaries to full-length narratives of any genre. The group holds auditions, script writing workshops, filming, blocking of a film, fundraisers, and film premieres. The Film Club also competes in various competitions, such as the College Night Window Painting Contest in which they placed third and Sidewalk Film Festival events. Producer and president Morgan Evans is proud of how the club "[met] with the city council to get a contract signed to be able to film downtown" and also about the "article written about the club and our new film by a Shelby County reporter."

Members of UM Film Club
Photo courtesy of Morgan Evans



The film club shoots a scene in an alleyway in downtown Montevallo
Photo courtesy of Morgan Evans

HARRY POTTER CLUB

The Harry Potter Club discusses J. K. Rowling's famous novel series and participates in activities that are related to the books. It puts on events like Yule Balls, Bake Sales, and Movie Nights all thematically connected to Harry Potter. This year, the Harry Potter Club also hosts a memorial for both Alan Rickman and David Bowie. The memorial features the opportunity to donate to a charity the men mutually supported, Save the Children, which aims to protect children and facilitate their learning opportunities in order to give them better futures.

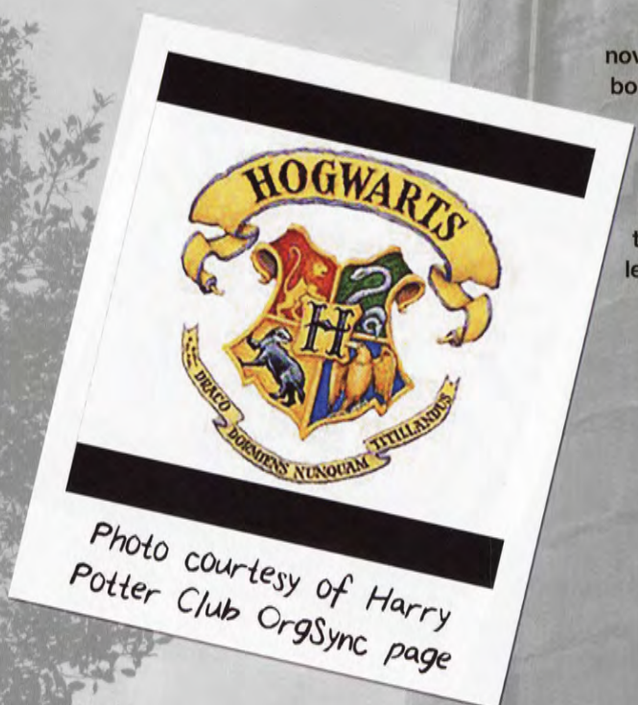


Photo courtesy of Harry Potter Club OrgSync page

SHERLOCK HOLMES LITERARY SOCIETY

Megan Liveoak & Carly Lockhart attempt to free the stuck harpoon from a hay bale and the tree behind it

Megan Liveoak, Kel Laeger, Stuart Cekolin & Carly Lockhart

(Not pictured: Wendy Johnson & Cathryn Denard)

The Sherlock Holmes Literary Society, led by their advisor, Kel Laeger, and this year's president, Megan Liveoak, meets twice a month at Eclipse Coffee and Books to discuss Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories as they read through them. The members call themselves the "Baker Street Irregulars" after the children that function as Sherlock Holmes' intelligence agents on the streets. They meet to celebrate Holmes and Watson and their context within the late 19th and early 20th century Victorian and Edwardian London. To do so, they also have activities that go along with the story, such as holiday parties, movies, and themed games. Carly Lockhart, active member, recalls, "The highlight of this year to me would be when we had a harpoon toss that went along with the story of Black Peter."

WHOVIAN SOCIETY

The Whovian Society meets to converse about Doctor Who, a British television show. The club's description of itself refers back to the show as the group aims to "exterminate your loneliness and upgrade to a society that shares your interest." In addition to meetings, the Whovian Society puts on the Fandom Feud this year that is open to all of the UM community including faculty, staff, and students. This event is a chance for five-person teams to compete in their knowledge about famous fandoms like Harry Potter, Doctor Who, Anime, and Disney's animated films.

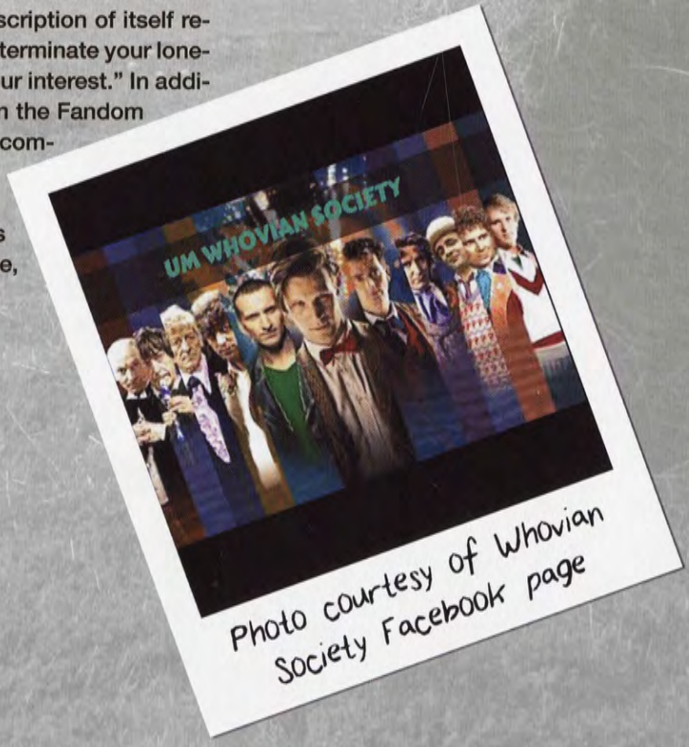


Photo courtesy of Whovian Society Facebook page

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THE ALABAMIAN

"The Alabamian" is the UM student newspaper that covers news on the local and larger scales. The newspaper also gives students a forum through which to express their opinions and thoughts. It is a great experience for prospective publishing careers such as journalists, editors, photographers, graphic designers, etc. Editor Danielle Stallworth notes that "the main challenge with any publication is keeping our readers interested and keeping people interested in contributing to the paper," but she was able to keep her staff and readers engaged by "[staying] open to input and ideas from the staff and from the community."

This year, "The Alabamian" hosts a journalism "boot camp" that trains students for writing in a newspaper and their first ever Journalism & Communications Professionals Panel. The Journalism & Communications Professionals Panel is aimed toward COMS students as they network and search for jobs. During the panel, local journalists who had themselves worked for "The Alabamian" before finding their current jobs come to inform students about their experience after college. The panel also addresses general career advice, the transition from college into the workforce, and their individual experiences working in journalism. Stallworth recalls, "It was amazing getting to talk to people who are not only working in that job field right now, but people who have been in our shoes before as students working with 'The Alabamian' and being students in the Department of Communication. I enjoyed getting to ask them questions about various topics, including networking tips and what employers look for in a potential employee."

The Alabamian staff participates in The Big Event

Members of the Alabamian and Montage use extra newspapers to create baskets at Stud-Pub-Palooza

Editor-in-Chief Danielle Stallworth recruits at the Back to School Bash

Photo credits: The Alabamian

MONTAGE

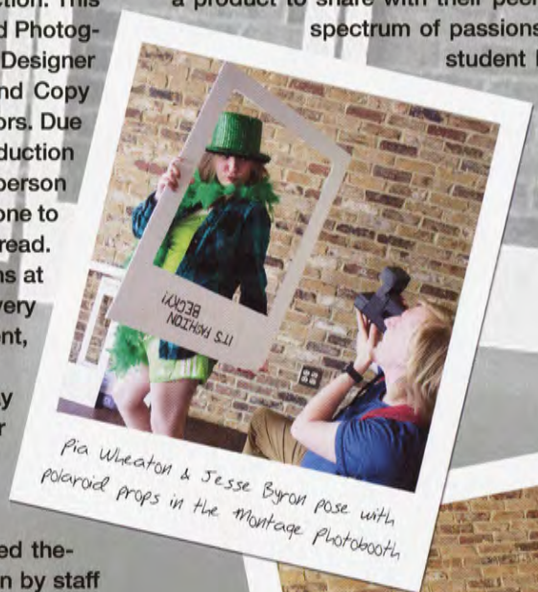
The "Montage" is the University of Montevallo's yearbook that is run, written, and produced by student staff members. The "Montage" meets once a week, but also requires the editors to hold office hours; members attend campus events and work after-hours on their specific roles within the book's production. This year's staff includes Editor-in-Chief Megan Liveoak, Lead Photographer and Photo Editor Wendy Johnson, Lead Graphic Designer and Layout Editor Makayla Wright, and Lead Writer and Copy Editor Erica Lewis as well as occasional minor contributors. Due to this small staff, each portion of the yearbook's production was a cumbersome load for each member; there is one person to edit all of the photos, one to write all of the copy, and one to turn both of those components into a layout for every spread. Luckily, all of the staff members help to take photographs at various events, and the Editor-in-Chief steps in to help every role as needed in addition to her planning, management, and communication roles as an editor.

Liveoak reflects, "We are so sequestered away in the back of Farmer, we don't have the opportunity...for the students to really get to know The 'Montage' in a fun way." In an effort to remedy this disconnect, "Montage" puts on two photo booth events in Farmer Hall, inviting students to take photos free of charge with the provided thematic props-such as St. Patrick's Day. The photos, taken by staff member and BFA photographer Wendy Johnson, are then uploaded to Facebook to be shared with the participants and promote further engagement in future photo booths. "It was really fun when we had people get into it. We had some people do full on runway style photo shoots and crazy poses," Liveoak recalls. "I also enjoyed the times in between people being there when we were just able to be goofy together and have fun as a staff."

"Montage," together with "The Tower" and "The Alabamian," also holds the Stud-Pub-Palooza in the student publications office. This event allows for students to meet staff members for all three of the campus publications. It is also a chance to distribute the surplus copies of newspapers, magazines, and yearbooks. During the event, staff members and students talked, ate food, and rolled excess newspapers into thin tubes that could be woven into baskets.

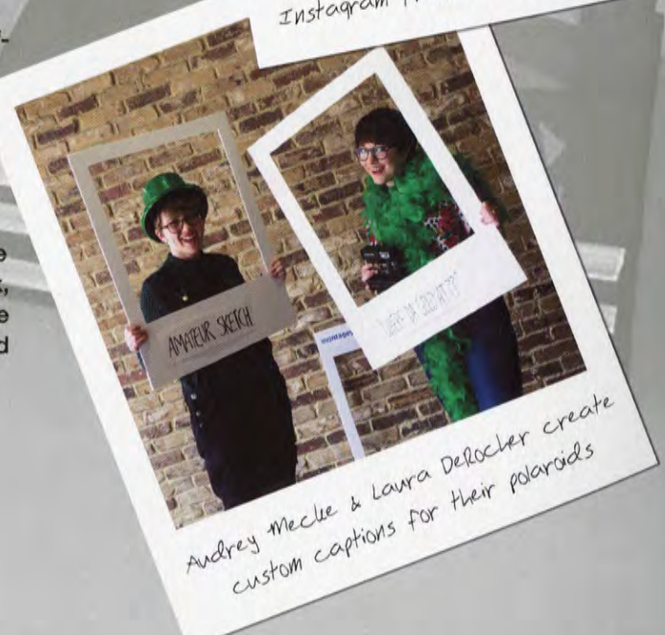
Looking back on her experience, Johnson recalls the difficulty balancing all of the aspects of "Montage;" she advises future members to "make sure to have fun while making the 'Montage'" and "keep track of dates and events." Similarly, Wright says, "One of the biggest challenges I faced was time management... I honestly don't think people understand how much work and thought gets put into creating the yearbook. There was one day that I had been working on pages for twelve hours, and I was nowhere near finished. Although it's a lot of work, it's something I enjoy. It's always satisfying to be able to hold the finished book in my hands... My favorite memory is when I finished the cover. It was a really proud moment for me because I had never designed a cover before."

Yearbook is an amazing experience with real applicable skills and a tangible final product. Not only do members build their experience with writing, photography, graphic design, photo editing, time management, and accountability, but they also have a product to share with their peers that reflect on the broad spectrum of passions and hard work that every student has put into this academic year through the media of clubs, organizations, activities, events, achievements, and academics.



Pia Wheaton & Jesse Byron pose with polaroid props in the Montage Photobooth

Three friends utilize polaroid and Instagram frames during their photoshoot



Audrey Meeke & Laura DeRocker create custom captions for their polaroids

THE TOWER

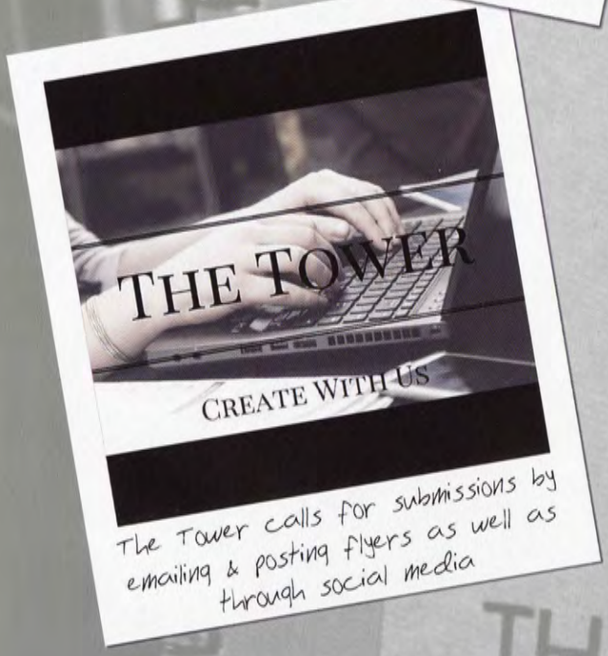
"The Tower" is the UM student literary and visual arts magazine that is produced by and composed of students' creative work. The magazine includes creative writing of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and plays along with artwork. Reader Ryann Taylor is one of the members in charge of reading, reviewing, and editing submissions. Taylor enjoys "seeing the diverse voices we have on campus expressing themselves" in their creative submissions.

"The Tower" editors also host a Prose Writing Workshop in addition to raising awareness for Banned Books Week. "The Tower," in tandem with SSA, hosts a tabling outside of the cafeteria in honor of Banned Books Week, a movement that started in 1982 in opposition to the banning and challenging of certain books in schools, stores, and libraries. Their table is stacked with books that have been challenged or banned in this or other countries. Some of these are *Animal Farm* for its politically allegorical criticisms, the Bible for its religious content, *To Kill a Mockingbird* for its intense racial history, the *Harry Potter* series for its fantasy in witchcraft, and so many more.

In an effort to raise awareness, students are invited to pose with a banned book to take a "mugshot" in front of the traditional criminal backdrop. In doing this, students are able to see the broad spectrum of books affected, many of which they themselves had read and loved or read and been affected by. In standing up to take their photo with a banned or challenged book, they are speaking out for their right to access and spread information as students.

President of both SSA and "The Tower," Leslie Smith, speaks to the constitutional rights of accessing all books, which is why they chose to support the cause. Cailin Monroe, a member working the table, says that the cause is important to her, because the bannings and challenges not only are "infringements of the First Amendment right," but also should not be allowed to effect "a whole group, because [one group] is offended" for their specific reasons. It is not so much about content, but the freedom to access it. Some material could be graphic or mature or inconsistent with certain beliefs, which is a decision for the individual to make, not for the government to eliminate. By banning books, authors are silenced and the spread of information, creative and informational and historical, is hindered. Students and citizens deserve to write and read freely, which is exemplary in this gathering of students to defend their rights.

Tower Editor-in-Chief & SSA President Leslie Smith poses with banned books during the two orgazations' joint event



The Tower calls for submissions by emailing & posting flyers as well as through social media

Photo credits: The Tower and SSA

Organizations Roster

ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS

FACS Sudent Group
Mathematics Club
Montevallo Honors Organization
National Association for Music Education
National Broadcasting Society
National Student Speech Language Hearing Association
Phi Chi Theta
Philosophy Club
Psi Chi
Psychology Club
Social Work Club
Student Art Association
Student Dietetic Association
Theatre Student Organization
UM Pre-Health Professionals Society
UM Professional Educator's Association

HONORARY SOCIETIES

Alpha Lambda Delta
Golden Key
Kappa Delta Pi
Kappa Mu Epsilon
Kappa Omicron Nu
Lambda Pi Eta
Omicron Delta Kappa
Order of Omega
Phi Alpha Theta-History Honor Society-Theta Iota Chapter
Pi Delta Phi
Sigma Delta Pi Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica
Sigma Tau Delta
National Society of Leadership and Success
American Choral Directors Association

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Montage
The Tower
The Alabamian

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Baptist Campus Ministries
Catholic Campus Ministries
Chi Alpha Campus Ministry
I Am Second
Montevallo Christian Athletes
UM Pantheon

SPECIAL INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS

Active Minds
Amnesty International
Astronomy Club
Bass Anglers Association
Best Buddies
Chess Club of Montevallo
Dance Team
Environmental Club
Fighting Falcons
Harry Potter Club of Montevallo
Korean Culture Club
Montevallo College Democrats
Montevallo Film Club
Montevallo Masters
Montevallo Organization of Gaming
Montevallo Students for Life
Phi Boota Roota
Sigma Alpha Iota Colony
Spectrum
Student Alumni Ambassadors
Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow
The B.O.N.D.
The Sherlock Holmes Literary Society
UM Exercise Science Club
University of Montevallo Anime Club
University of Montevallo Club Volleyball
University of Montevallo College Republicans
University of Montevallo Cosplay Association
University of Montevallo Secular Student Alliance
University of Montevallo NAACP College Chapter
University Program Council
URGE
Whovian Society
Young Americans for Liberty

STUDENT GOVERNANCE ORGANIZATIONS

Interfraternity Council
Minority Student Union
National Pan-Hellenic Council
Residence Hall Association
SGA

Photo Courtesy of Elise Gaiters' Facebook page

IN MEMORIAM

JEFFKHYLA GAITERS

February 19, 1997 - March 22, 2017

Jeffkhyla Gaiters graduated from Calera High School before arriving at the University of Montevallo as a Mass Communications major with a focus in Journalism and aspirations of becoming a news reporter. In her first year, Gaiters received the AAUW (American Association of University Women) Freshman Book Scholarship Award. She was active at New Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Calera as well as the university's NPC sorority Alpha Delta Pi and the TRIO Upward Bound Program.

Gaiters enjoyed acting, as she appeared in several plays through her involvement with Upward Bound in the summer. She was a lover of the horror genre, even working at Warehouse 31, a haunted attraction, for years. Along with these interests, Gaiters also adored makeup and was often seen with stars incorporated into her designs. Friends Ravan Xandria Mullins and Donovan Cleckley remark, "She was beautiful with stars in and around her eyes."

Mullins recalls, "Jeffkhyla was one of the first friends I made through the TRIO Upward Bound program. After having theatre classes together over the summer, we were roommates the next year and quickly became best friends. My favorite memory that we share is visiting Netherworld Haunted House in Atlanta, Georgia. Khyla and I shared a love for horror and traveled to the attraction, which was actually the first time she walked through a haunted house instead of working in one. She bought a signature Netherworld beanie at the end of the night, and we often recounted the experience months and years later."

Cleckley also shares his memories, "Jeffkhyla had the kind of vibrant soul that could make a person smile, laugh, and dance, even if that person feels sad. When we went to New Orleans on the Upward Bound summer trip in 2012, she and I danced together at Mulate's—along with our happy Upward Bound family. Khyla and I were, of course, not the best dancers in the room, but we had the most wonderful evening—especially laughing about our awkward dance skills. Silliness sort of took priority over seriousness for our dancing, but we didn't mind. Her smiles and laughter made it all the more fun because smiling and laughing is contagious. Even as awkward as we both might have appeared, we still tried our best to do some sort of fancy dancing. When we became skilled at spinning on the dance floor, I remember us twirling each other around and around—since we loved to grin and spin. Out of our memories together, that night seems most vivid and special to me. If I talk about dancing in New Orleans, then all I can think about is smiling with my kind, compassionate, and beautiful friend Khyla. In remembrance, I can always return to that night of smiling, laughing, and dancing in New Orleans."

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17 likes
_kilgore_trout When it's pay day, and you've been waiting to go to the grocery store for two weeks
haley_squid Just got back from scoping out the pig
containinginfinity Housing staff is the cream of the {Crush}!
brucefinklea Her: "I think we're doing a beer run wrong." Him: "Are you kidding? We crushed it!"
jesssica_russsell Crushing midterms at the root since 2016

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19 likes
taterblonde This semester @me
_kilgore_trout First girl: Me. Second girl: Responsibilities.
mikalpikal She threw whip and I said nay nay
wordsareworth Pop quiz be like
haley_squid How that first student bill feels

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13 likes
sami_sunset When you use the stall with no toilet paper and text your best friend for help.
brucefinklea They see me rollin'. They hatin'...
haley_squid #vogue
sweet_as_sunshine0__o There wasn't any TP in a stall one day... NEVER AGAIN." #toiletpaper #toiletjokes
kellynguyen16 They said I couldn't make toilet paper look cool. Proved them wrong #likeaboss

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November 16, 2016
12 likes
_blackcracker Go! Professors can't hand us our test back if we run!
jesssica_russsell Running from responsibilities like
containinginfinity It's fried chicken Friday in the caf! Gotta beat the 12 o'clock lines!
mikalpikal The mannequin thing is so last week.
breath.of.fresh.claire FREDDIE!!!! Get off the field!!

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February 20, 2017
31 likes
ashlynthehuman When someone with the College Night Plague of 2017 sneezes near you.
wordsareworth thatmomentwhen you realize that paper you haven't started is due tonight at midnight
_blackcracker That moment you learned TACO BELL is coming to MONTEVALLO!!!!
at_whitts_end When it's suppose to be Fried Chicken Friday, but the cafe isn't serving fried chicken.
rachey_rach Everyone is having kids and getting married, but I'm just excited about the BOGO sale for shakes at Huddle House.

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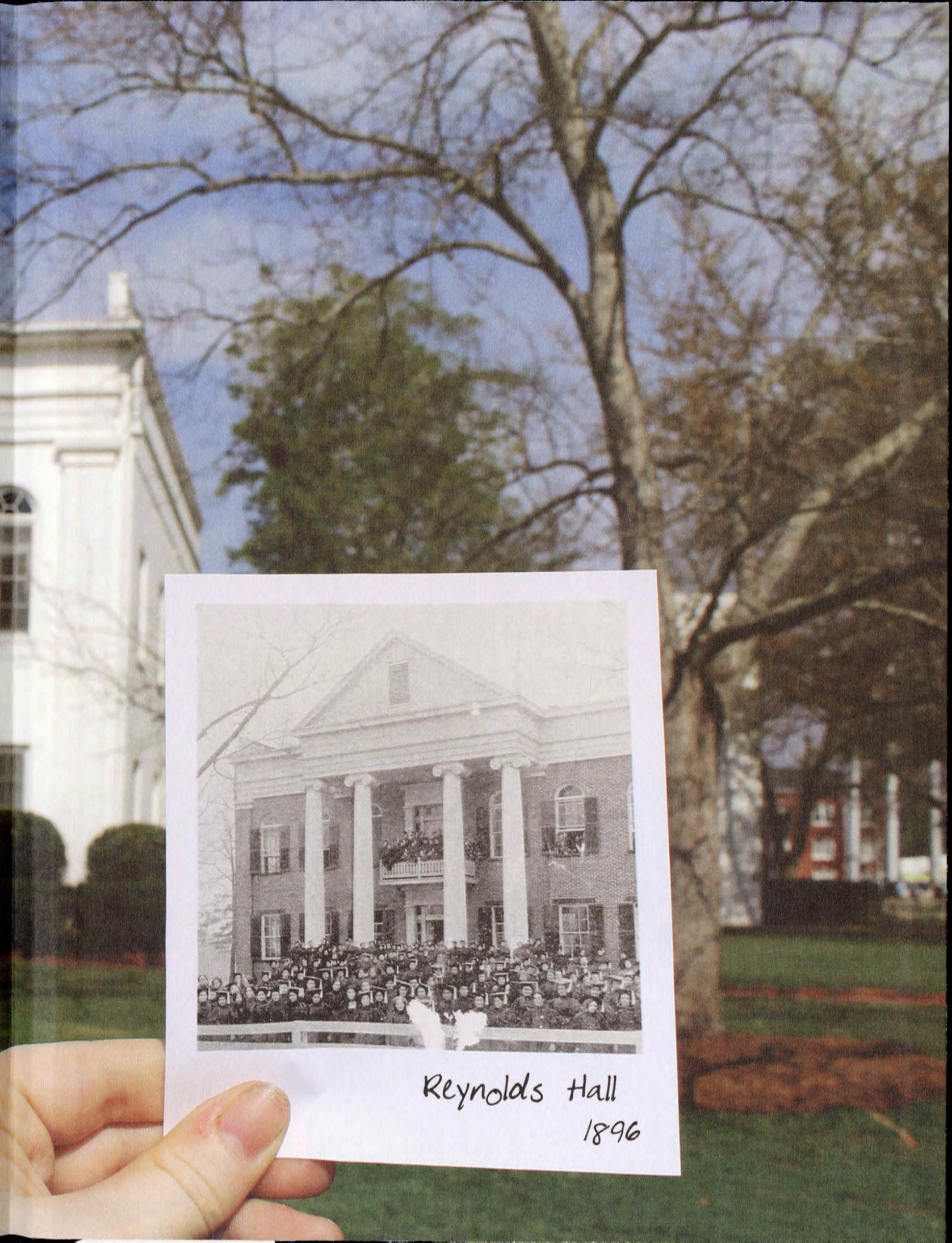
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